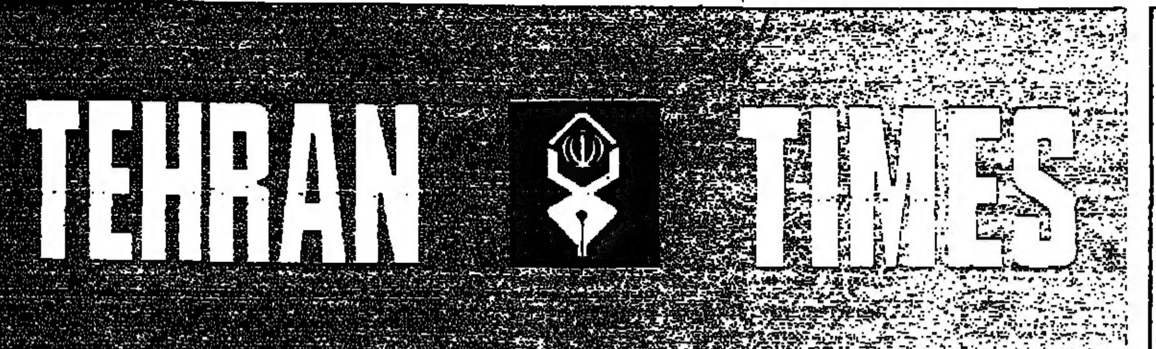
Israel Rejects UN Vote, Says Building to Begin Soon

BAIT-UL-MOQADDAS — Israel rejected on Friday a UN resolution calling on it to halt plans to build a new Jewish enclave in disputed East Bait-ul-Moqaddas and reaffirmed it would soon begin work on the site.

Brushing aside warnings that the new Jewish homes could spark further violence, Israeli officials said construction could begin as early as Monday.

(Contd on Pg. 14)



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Shia Leader Shot Dead in Pakistan

LAHORE, Pakistan — Three gunmen shot and killed Friday a central leader of a Pakistani Shia political party, police said.

Ejaz Imam Rizvi, who belonged to Tehreek-i-Jafria Pakistan (TJP), was attacked in the Punjab Province town of Okara, about 150 kilometers (93 miles) south of Lahore, the provincial capital, they said.

The three unidentified assailants, who stopped his car and sprayed him with bullets, fled on motorbikes, a police official said.

Police suspect a sectarian motive for the shooting, which followed a number of similar attacks which have claimed several lives across Punjab in recent weeks. (AFP)

Big Powers Frightened by Muslim Nations Awakening



DEZFUL, Khuzestan Prov. — The Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei said here on Thursday that the awakening of Muslim nations has frightened the big powers of the world and has endangered their illegitimate interests in the world of Islam.

The Leader said the enemies of Islam, who see their oil resources and markets jeopardized by the awakening of Muslim nations, have waged a war against the Islamic movement which is manifested in their fight against the Islamic Republic and the Iranian nation.

Addressing a large crowd of people in this southern city, he said that despite America's widespread anti-Iran propaganda, 95 percent of its efforts to deal a blow to the Islamic system have failed.

Despite hostile propaganda aired by the U.S. and other arrogant powers, Iran is today stronger and the Iranian nation is braver than ever before, with numerous achievements made in various fields, the Leader noted.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution said that a nation that relies on the Almighty and is confident of itself is not afraid of its enemies.

The Iranian nation is working hard to turn their country into a free, advanced and developed country and into a model state for other nations of the world, Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Such a nation, he underlined, could not be defeated either by the U.S. and its allies or by eastern and Western powers and this is the same reality that the heroic people of Dezful showed to the world on a smaller scale. (Contd on Pg. 14)

Nourbakhsh: Iran's GDP Rose by 5 Percent This Year

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) said in Tokyo Wednesday that Iran's gross domestic product (gdp) increased by five percent during the current Iranian year, 1375, (March 20, 1996- March 20, 1997).

Nourbakhsh who arrived in Tokyo Monday told Japanese reporters that Iran's trade surplus during the year 1375 has been five billion dollar, IRNA reported.

The positive economic performance has not only harnessed the inflation but has reduced its percentage to half compared to last year, he added.

Nourbakhsh predicted that the macro economic indexes will improve next Iranian year as projected in the Second Five-Year Development Plan (1995-1999).

The central bank governor expressed hope that Tehran-Tokyo economic relations would be further consolidated.

Meanwhile in a meeting with his Japanese counterpart, Yasuo Matsushita, Nourbakhsh discussed cooperation between the banking systems of the two countries.

Nourbakhsh said that during 1375 Iran has not only paid its foreign debts on time but has added to its foreign exchange reserves. He said that according to statistics $2.5 billion was added to forex reserves in 1375.

Nourbakhsh expressed hope that Tehran-Tokyo banking cooperation will expand within the framework of overall bilateral relations.

Matsushita lauded Iran for paying its foreign debts on time and said this is a sign of good management on the part of Iran.

Matsushita added that this will add to credibility of the Islamic Republic of Iran in international monetary organizations.

How Come PG States Call U.S. Their Own Friends?

TEHRAN — President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in his Friday prayers sermons here at Imam Khomeini's holy shrine condemned Jewish settlements east of



holy Qods and called U.S. support for Israel as callow and oppressive'.

Substitute Friday prayer leader was astounded over Arab states' friendship with the U.S. which impudently and shamelessly supported the construction of Zionists palaces over the ruins of Palestinians' small houses.

The president said that such an issue should serve as a warning and a lesson to be learned by other nations, including the Muslim ones.

We are surprised to see our brothers in Arab countries calling the U.S. as their own friends, said the president.

Rafsanjani further stated that at the time when the United States is fully dependent on the Persian Gulf littoral Arab states and other Muslim countries today, it has shamelessly stood against them and denied Palestinian Muslims' their legitimate rights.

The Friday prayer leader pointed out that Persian Gulf littoral states continue regarding the U.S. their own friend, adding that what sort of friendship is this?

The president said that Iranian officials were flabbergasted to see the U.S. standing against the world and its European allies and at the same time supporting throwing their full support for several million of Zionist aggressors.

Rafsanjani added that these af- (Contd on Pg. 14)

Albanian President Has "No Intention" to Resign

TIRANA — Albania's President Sali Berisha said Friday that he had no intention to resign over the rebellion which has plunged a large part of his country into a state of lawlessness.

"I have no intention to resign," Berisha told AFP in a telephone interview, adding that he would "never leave the country" scotching rumors that he had fled the Balkan Republic.

Anti-government rebels who have seized control of a series of towns in the south and north of Albania have been calling for Berisha's resignation as a precondition for surrendering weapons looted from army depots.

Members of Albania's recently created government of reconciliation have not demanded the president's resignation.

OSCE mediator Franz Vranitzky called Friday for an "international police unit" to be sent to restore order in Albania, the Austrian news agency said.

It said he made the appeal in a telephone interview with the agency after meeting with Albanian Prime Minister Bashkim Fino aboard an Italian warship in the Adriatic Sea earlier in the day.

Vranitzky, a former Austrian (Contd on Pg. 14)



CERRIK, Albania (March 12): Relatives and neighbors mourn during the wake for Ardian Rabushija, 23, killed by Albanian secret police according to witnesses, in Cerrik. Albanian rebels took control of this town, 35 km (20 miles) south of Tirana, after seizing weapons and a clash with secret police in which two people were killed.

(AFP PHOTO)

Velayati Makes Saudi Visit to Improve Ties

RIYADH — Iran's Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati, on his first visit to Saudi Arabia in four years, will insist on Tehran's innocence in the June 1996 Khobar bombing, an Iranian diplomat here said Friday.

Officially, the aim of the visit on Saturday during a tour of Muslim countries is to deliver an invitation for King Fahd to attend a regular summit of the Organization of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran in December.

Velayati is expected to insist that Iran played no role in the (Contd on Pg. 14)

C-130 Plane Crashes With 80 People on Board

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — An Iranian military C-130 transport plane with 80 people on board has crashed in northeastern Iran after the pilot reported engine problems, state television said Friday.

The plane went down on Thursday 38 kilometers (24 miles) from Mashhad, the main city in the mountainous Province of Khorasan near the border with Afghanistan, the television said.

The aircraft lost radar contact with the control tower in Mashhad at about 6 p.m. (1430 GMT) Thursday and is believed to have crashed around the same time, it said.

The television said the pilot had contacted the control tower and told them that the engines had broken down.

There was no immediate word on the fate of the 80 passengers on board.

The governor of Mashhad, Vakili-Pour, told official IRNA news agency that rescuers were still searching for the plane's wreckage.

The propeller-driven plane left the town of Dezful in Iran's southwestern Province of Khuzestan at 4:30 p.m. (1300 GMT) Thursday for Mashhad and crashed just short of its arrival, the agency added.

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In the Name of God

And if they break their oaths after their agreement and (openly) revile your religion, then fight the leaders of unbelief—surely their oaths are nothing—so that they may desist.

(HOLY QORAN) (9:12)

OPINION

OIC Suitable Platform for Economic Cooperation Among Muslims

Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati is to make today his first visit to Saudi Arabia in four years. Velayati is to invite King Fahd to attend the OIC summit which will be held in Tehran in December this year. He will also discuss issues of mutual interest to boost bilateral ties and prepare the ground for a dynamic regional cooperation in the strategic Persian Gulf region.

Both Iran and Saudi Arabia are members of the OIC, its affiliated Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industries (ICCI), OPEC and the Islamic Development Bank (IDB). Thus far the OIC has remained a politico-religious organization without any economic activity.

But given the fact that the organization has not yet utilized its full potentials, it is clear that a bright future awaits it if the member states transform it into a dynamic economic body.

One reason for this undesirable situation is failure of the members to realize that the OIC could be used as a platform for economic cooperation. Another reason is differences among the members. Yet the conspiracy of foreign powers to keep the Islamic World divided is the most important reason for disunity in the OIC.

Iran and Saudi Arabia are influential members of the OIC and their cordial ties and close cooperation can contribute to the materialization of this goal.

Velayati's visit to Saudi Arabia is an appropriate opportunity to boost mutual understanding and confidence. Removal of misunderstanding between Tehran and Riyadh will definitely be a confidence-boosting measure in Iran's relations with other Sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf who consider Saudi Arabia their 'big brother'.

The world is on the threshold of the 21st century. Unfortunately the Islamic world is still a divided one. Europe has already taken concrete steps to act as a single bloc in the emerging world order. Latin America and Southeast Asia too are far ahead of the Islamic World with regard to collective cooperation.

Why should the Islamic World, having numerous resources, lag behind other blocs and regional alliances? All the OIC member states believe in one God, one Prophet and one religious book. These are the best available grounds for multilateral cooperation among them.

In order to keep the Muslims divided, the U.S. has always exploited differences among Islamic schools of thought.

We do not advocate unification of Islamic schools of thought, for it is impossible and tantamount to the elimination of some of those schools. But we strongly support unity among Muslims vis-a-vis their common enemies.

Some of the Islamic countries have not realized their real enemies. Take for instance the rapprochement of some of those countries with Israel after the Oslo accords. The Palestinians have practically gained nothing out of the peace process. But almost all Arab countries, with the exception of Lybia and Syria, have endorsed the so-called peace process and mended fences with the Zionist regime which is deadly out to expand its territory from Nile to Euphrates.

In order to achieve its ends the U.S. has projected Iran as a threat to the security of the Persian Gulf countries. Iran has time and again reiterated that the regional countries should rely on regional cooperation instead of counting on the U.S. which has in unambiguous terms stated that the security of Israel and its military edge over the Arabs is always top on the agenda of its Middle Eastern policy.

As a result the Arabs have spent astronomical figures on arms purchases which we are sure will not help them in an eventual confrontation with the Zionist entity.

Closer cooperation between Iran and Saudi Arabia will definitely prepare a congenial ground for a dynamic cooperation within the OIC and a fruitful cooperation in the Persian Gulf region. As the first step towards a dynamic cooperation with Iran, the Saudis should bid farewell to suspicions about Iran, inculcated in their minds by the United States to achieve its goals in the region. Iran's sincerity towards its neighbors in the Persian Gulf can be judged through its rational stands towards Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Sudan Welcomes Iran's Mediation Efforts

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Sudanese Foreign Minister Ali Othman Mohamed Taha said in Khartum on Thursday that his country welcomes Iran's mediation efforts to iron out differences between Sudan and Uganda.

In an interview with IRNA Taha said that regrettably, despite efforts made by other countries for settling the disputes, such important goal has not yet been realized.

Meanwhile the Iranian Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati told IRNA that deplorable continuation of clashes between Sudan and Uganda would not at all be to the interest of the both sides and that Iran would spare no efforts to soothe the ongoing tension.

Velayati, who was heading a delegation on his way to Kampala from Khartoum, said that aliens, who followed their own interests by escalating tension and fanning clashes in the world countries, including Muslim states, were somehow provoking such conflicts.

According to another report, Velayati had also a meeting with the Speaker of Sudanese Parliament Hassan At-Turabi, during which the two sides reviewed issues of mutual interests.

Stressing on the importance of friendly relations between the two Muslim countries, At-Turabi said that Sudan attaches great significance to its ties with Iran as a powerful country.

He called for further promotion of Tehran-Khartoum relations in all areas.

Velayati reiterated that the Islamic Reopublic is always striving to create unity among Muslims and to bring Islamic countries close to one other.

The Iranian foreign minister arrived in Khartum on Wednesday on a two-day official visit. He earlier visited Syria, Turkey and Czech Republic.

Meanwhile in a meeting with Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir on Wednesday, Velayati submitted a letter from President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani to him inviting Al-Bashir to attend the summit meeting of the organizatio of the Islamic Conference (OIC) in Tehran in December

During the meeting Al-Bashir urged all Islamic states to take advantage of Tehran summit and use the platform to raise and resolve problems of the Muslims throughout the world.

Velayati also underlined that Iran is working to pave the way for more active cooperation among Islamic countries and the OIC summit is a step in this direction.

He expressed hope that the summit would help remove obstacles on the way of reaching common Islamic objectives.

Polish President Condoles President Rafsanjani

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Polish President Aleksander Kwasniewski on Thursday cabled a message to President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani expressing his condolences over the deadly earthquake which hit the Ardebil Province of Iran.

In the message the Polish president expressed his and his nation's deep grief over the tragic incident which took the lives of many people and inflicted heavy losses on the region.

According to Polish Embassy in Tehran the government and the Red Cross Society of Poland will send two plane-loads of relief aid including 7,110 blankets and nine tons of goods for the quake-stricken people of Ardebil.

Military Official: Iran Gives Firm Response to Any Hostile Move

TEHRAN — An Iranian military official said here Thursday that the Iranian armed forces will decisively respond to any hostile move against the country.

He told IRNA that Iran is an independent country and will follow its defense policies in the framework of conventional measures in the world without taking into consideration reaction of enemies.

Stressing that Iran does not need to utilize non-conventional weapons, he added Iran procures its needs from domestic sources.

The military official described conventional military cooperation with other countries as a routine practice at international level.

He said that Iran has repeatedly expressed its interest in promotion of its defensive cooperation in the Persian Gulf and with neighboring countries and has taken steps in this direction.

Turning to allegations made by Israeli officials on Iran's non-conventional military purchases, he said such claims are raised by a regime whose existence and legitimacy is questioned by the world public opinion, a regime who respects no international principle and convention.

Reminding that such allegations are raised to shift the crisis from the occupied territories elsewhere, the official said such attempts are doomed to fail.

An Israeli military official in Moscow on Monday threatened that the Zionist regime will act to prevent the arming of Iran with ballistic missiles if persuasion fails to do the job. *(IRNA)*

Iranian, Ugandan FMs Hold 1st Round of Talks

KAMPALA — Iranian and Ugandan foreign ministers held first round of their talks here on Thursday.

The two sides at the meeting surveyed Tehran-Kampala relations and sought new ways of establishing peace between Sudan and Uganda at a quadrilateral peace talk to be held by Iran, Uganda, Sudan and Malawi.



Velayati left Sudan for Kampala on Thursday to submit President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani's message to his Ugandan counterpart Yoweri Kaguta Museveni.

The Iranian foreign minister was expected to hold talks in order to survey issues pertaining to Tehran-Kampala ties, allay tension between Sudan and Uganda and restore peace between the two countries.

Ugandan Foreign Minister Erlya Kategaya at the meeting welcomed Iran's efforts in establishing peace between his country and Sudan and said that his country adhered to Tehran agreements.

Velayati for his part said the goal behind Iran's peace seeking efforts was to guarantee maintenance of tranquility, good neighborliness and make Sudan and Uganda centralize their potentials on reconstruction and development. *(IRNA)*

Iranian Envoy Urges UN to Continue Pressures Against Zionist Lawlessness

UNITED NATIONS HQ. (New York) — Iran's permanent representative to the UN, Dr. Seyed Kamal Kharrazi, said in his address to the General Assembly that the world body could at least voice its opinion in the form of a resolution on the latest act of lawlessness by Israel without being silenced or rendered ineffective by the vote of a single member.

Last week, the Security Council failed to adopt a mild resolution calling on Israel to refrain from building settlements in eastern Qods (Bait-ul-Moqaddas), he stated, regretting that the council failed to adopt the resolution because a permanent member placed itself above and beyond the wishes of the international community as reflected by the forty-eight statements in the council and 14 votes in favor of the resolution.

He added: The statements in this August assembly are also another index of the views of general membership of the organization and of the isolation of the decision to veto the resolution in the council.

The UN resolution against Israel's building of Jewish settlements on Arab land was vetoed by the illegal Zionist state's principal backer the U.S. administration.

Kharrazi said the Islamic Iran is the least surpised by the double talk. However, we found the new twist in this exercise of veto quite disturbing for the relevance and credibility of the organization as a whole.

The blatant disregard for Islamic history and the Palestinian heritage in Bait-ul-Moqaddas which in and of itself could have dangerous repercussions on the ground, and the total disregard for international outrage over the Israeli decision to build new settlements in east Bait-ul-Moqaddas which are manifested in the veto of the resolution last Friday, are clearly a misuse of that fiduciary trust in the Security Council, at least as far as the permanent member that vetoed the resolution is concerned, he noted.

Addressing the UN chief, the Iranian envoy said: Land grabbing and building new housing projects through the use of brute force, intimidation, deceit and mere trickery in order to change the basic characteristics of the Palestinian territories have always been an integral component of the Zionist grand design to plant itself in Palestine and perpetuate its occupation.

He said the Israel's untrustworthy conduct should serve as yet another example to those who have put their faith and hope in Israeli peace overtures. (IRNA)

Iran, Syria to Upgrade Cultural, Press Relations

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to Damascus Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Hassan Akhtari on Wednesday met with Syrian Minister of Information Muhammad Salman.

During the meeting the two sides emphasized on boosing the two countries' cooperation in the cultural, press and news sectors.

They stressed that exchange of delegations between the Iranian and Syrian news agencies and cultural and press organizations will further increase bilateral familiarity.

Salman offered his sympathies to the quake-hit people of Ardebil, northwestern Iran, requesting Hoj. Akhtari to forward his condolences to the Iranian officials and nation.

He also appreciated the all-out support given to his country by Islamic Iran against Israel's state terrorism.

Akhtari for his part called for implementation of the cultural and propagation agreements reached between the two nations.

The Syrian minister of information is expected to pay a visit to Iran at the invitation of Iranian Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyed Mostafa Mir-Salim.

Qom Marks 2nd Death Anniversary of Imam's Son

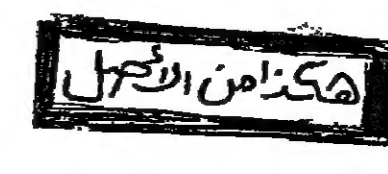
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — A special ceremony marking the 2nd anniversary of the departure of Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini, the son of the Founder of the Islamic Revolution, the late Imam Khomeini, was held at Qom's Grand Mosque on Thursday.

The commemoration ceremony was attended by ulemas, members of the Assembly of Experts and Society of Qom Seminary Theologians, representatives of the Leader's Office and Imam Khomeini's household. Speaking at the ceremony, Majlis Representative Hojjatoleslam Akrami referred to Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini as a trustee of his father's legacy, and noted the invaluable measures he took for the sake of the country during his entire fruitful life.

Akrami further said that the late

(Contd on Pg. 14)



Hajj, Like Qoran, Has Remained Unfamiliar Among Islamic Communities



Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — The superintendent of Iranian Hajj pilgrims, Hojjatoleslam Mohammad Mohammadi Reyshahri, in the Friday prayer pre-sermon speech said Hajj is as unknown as the Qoran among Islamic countries.

Last week's Friday prayer was held at the holy shrine of Imam Khomeini on the occasion of the anniversary of the passing away of the late Imam's son, Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini.

Hojjatoleslam Reyshahri expressed condolence on the departure of Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini and limelighted his role in the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

Reyshahri said the late Imam Khomeini revived the Hajj originated by Hazrat Ibrahim, adding that Imam Khomeini taught us that "Ramye Jamarat" (throwing pebbles at the symbol of Satan) is not a ceremonial stoning of Satan but that rather today the ritual represents throwing stone at the Great Satan: the U.S. and its armies, chief among them being Israel.

Reyshahri stressed that, as pointed out by Imam Khomeini, imperialist powers led by the U.S. are today's greatest "Lat" and "Hobal" (two idols worshipped in pre-Islamic period).

He said the holy Qoran is unknown among Islamic countries, adding that although exorbitant sums are spent for its publication, Qoran is acted upon conversely.

Hojjatoleslam Reyshahri said by the grace of God and with the Messiah-style breath of the late Imam Khomeini, Hajj has been revitalized in Islamic Iran and is being spread among the world Muslims, thus carrying Muslims closer to the lofty goals of Hajj.

He said if the pilgrims circling the Ka'ba cry the slogan of death to the U.S. and Israel, this indicates that Hajj has been revived also among other Muslim nationals.

Anniversary of Imam's Son Commemorated in Kuala Lumpur



KUALA LUMPUR — Malaysia-based Iranians attended special ceremonies held at the Iranian embassy in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday to commemorate departure anniversary of the founder of the Islamic Republic the late Imam Khomeini's son Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini.

An outstanding member of Iran's cultural and science academy Hojatoleslam Mohaqeq Damad said at the ceremony that Hojjatoleslam seyed Ahmad Khomeini had launched wide-scale efforts to publish his father's works after his demise.

Hoj. Seyed Ahmad Khomeini, 50, died at the Baqiatollah Hospital in Tehran on March 17, 1995, following a severe heart attack which resulted in the failure of nervous system on March 12, 1995.

He was a *prominent figure* in the struggle against the oppressors and spared no efforts to safeguard the legacy of his immortal father.

Seyed Ahmad was born in the holy city of Qom in 1324 (1945), and having finished high school, he studied theological courses upon the recommendations of his father.

For a period of five years, he attended courses in theology being instructed by prominent scholars including the late Imam Khomeini.

He left behind three sons: Hassan, Yasser and Ali.

His elder son, Hassan, 23, is a student at the Qom school of theology. (IRNA)

On the eve of the New Year, families of martyrs have rushed to Behesht-e-Zahra Cemetery to clean the tomb of their beloved ones, who fell martyrs to bullets of Shah's tyranny and those of Iraqi imposed war. Photo: Abbas Takin

IPCC Invites People to Ceremonies Marking Anniversary of Hoj. Seyed Ahmad Khomeini's Departure

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — Islamic Propagation Coordination Council (IPCC) released a statement inviting people to participate massively at the ceremonies marking the second anniversary of the passing away of Hojjatoleslam Seyed Ahmad Khomeini, son of the late Imam Khomeini.

IPCC's statement added that the ceremonies will be held at the holy shrine of Imam Khomeini and the Muslim people may commemorate the untiring efforts of Hojjatoleslam Ahmad Khomeini in the course of the Islamic Revolution.

Ways to Expand Irano-Azeri Education Cooperation Explored

BAKU — Iran's Ambassador to Baku Ali-Reza Bigdeli, met with Azeri Minister of Education Liliya K. Rasulova, here on Thursday.

At the meeting the two sides discussed ways to expand cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan in the field of education.

The minister voiced satisfaction with the admission of Azeri students to the Imam Khomeini International University in the Iranian city of Qazvin and thanked Iran for granting scholarship to them.

They also discussed the activities of Iranian schools in Baku.

The Azeri minister invited Iran's Minister of Education Mohammad Ali Najafi and Minister of Culture and Higher Education Mohammad Reza Golpayegani to visit Azerbaijan. (IRNA)

Syria Sends Second Consignment of Relief Aid to Iran

DAMASCUS — Syria sent the second consignment of relief aid for the quake-stricken people in Ardebil Province of Iran on Thursday.

The assistance including 55 tons of goods such as tents, blankets, garments, medicines and foodstuff, were carried aboard two C-130 tranposrt planes.

The Syrian Minister of Supply and Internal Trade Nadim Akkash told IRNA that the Syrian President Hafiz al-Assad has ordered that the despatch of relief supplies to Iran be countinued.

He added that another planeload of relief supplies will be sent to Tehran on Friday and within the next two days more than 3,000 tons of commodities will be sent by rail for the quake-stricken people.

Experts of 8 Muslim Nations Attend D-8 Session

ANKARA — Senior experts from eight Muslim developing countries have gathered in Antalya port city in Turkey to attend the session of the group D-8, which was inaugurated on Thursday with a message aired by Turkish state minister Abdullah Gul.

Iran is represented at the session by a delegtion headed by Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs Javad Zarif.

Besides Iran, senior experts from the host country, Turkey, Indonesia, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Malaysia, Egypt and Nigeria are attending the session. The first D-8 session was held in Istanbul on January 14. (IRNA)

Brunei Minister: Iran Plays Significant Role in Expansion of Islamic Civilization Worldwide

BRUNEI — Brunei Minister of Education Abdul-Aziz said here on Thursday that Iran plays a significant role in expansion of Islamic culture and civilization throughout the world notably in Asia.

In a meeting with Iranian Ambassador to the country Javad Ansari, the minister expressed willingness of his country to benefit from educational and training experiences of Islamic Iran.

The two sides discussed ways of exchanging cultural experiences, setting up Persian and Malay language courses at Iranian and Brunei universities, granting scholarships to the university students of the two countries, holding Iran's educational industries exhibition in Brunei and holding annual camps for university students of both sides.

Iranian Minister of Education Mohammad Ali Najafi is to visit Brunei soon. (IRNA)

32 Killed, 2,000 Fled Massacre at Catholic Mission: Report

LUANDA - Unidentified armed men killed 32 people and drove more than 2,000 others to flee during an attack on a Roman Catholic mission in southwest Angola, the pro-government press said Friday.

The daily Jornal de Angola, giving a latest toll from the raid on March 5, added that the fate of six nuns taken hostage at the mission in Kambondongolo was not known.

More than 600 men took part in the attack, according to the mayor of Cubal town 50 kilometres (30 miles) from Kambondongolo, in a letter to the governor of Benguela province, cited by the paper.

The letter said that more than 2,000 people from the area had fled to Cubal.

Benguela province is the most unstable in Angola, which is emerging from a brutal civil war between independence from Portugal in 1975 and a peace accord in November 1994.

UN officials monitoring implementation of the pact between former rebels of the national union for the total independence of Angola (UNITA) and the government said earlier this week that they had no further details of the raid.

The Luanda government habitually blames former UNITA troops for violence in Benguela.

Deputy Defence Minister Pedro Sebastiao said this week that 30,000 former UNITA troops had deserted UN-supervised holding camps and were threatening peace. (AFP)

WEATHER

The Islamic Republic of Iran Meteorological Organization announced today's weather as follows:

Forecast for Tehran: Max. temp. 6°C, Min. temp. -3°C

Partly cloudy

Warmest Point: Bandar-e Lengeh 26°C

Coldest Point: Ardebil -12°C

Some cities of the world

Cities	Max. °C	Cities	Max. °C
Riyadh	20	Vienna	—
Istanbul	—	Moscow	4
Rome	16	Madrid	19
Athens	—	Abu Dhabi	22
London	14	Karachi	26
Paris	11	New Delhi	23
Frankfurt	—	Kuwait	24

General Assembly Expresses Sympathy With Iran's Quake Victims

UN, New York, — The General Assembly Wednesday expressed sympathy with the victims of the killer quake in northwest Iran on February 28 and called for internatinal contributions in this connection.

A tremor with a magnitude of 5.5 degrees hit the Ardebil Province, in northwest Iran, killing nearly 1,000 persons and injuring a couple of thousand.

On March 2 another quake with an intensity of 5.1 degrees hit the same area. More than 920 aftershocks have been recorded so far.

Iran's Permament Representative to the UN Kamal Kharrazi appreciated the UN and its specialized agencies as well as those governments and non-government organizations which have contributed to the ongoing relief activities for the victims of the Ardebil quake.

Kharazi told the debate session of the General Assembly on Wednesday that the people and government of the Islamic Republic of Iran have mobilized their resources to alleviate the suffering of approximately 6,000 people who have been affected by the quake.

He stressed that the harsh winter conditions have added to the existing difficulties in rendering assistance to the people affected by the earthquake.

Besides human losses, he told the session, 20 villages have been levelled to ground, 80 others damaged by between 40 to 90 percent.

10,000 housing units have been damged by more than 40 percent and 105 schools have been destroyed. (IRNA)

Condolence Messages From Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan on Ardebil Quake

TASHKENT — Uzbek President Islam A. Karimov in a message sent to President Hojjatoleslam Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjanii condoled him and the Iranian nation and government on the February 28 quake in northeastern Iranian province of Ardebil.

The message, handed over to the Iranian embassy in Tashkent by Uzbek foreign ministry envoy, wished patience for survivers of the tremor.

Meanwhile, Kyrgyz Premier Apas Jumagulov in another message sent to First Vice-President Hassan Habibi sympathized with the quake survivors and the Iranian nation and government on the incident.

Jumagulov announced his country's readiness to contribute help to surivers of the quake. (IRNA)

Iran-Turkey Economic Cooperation Will Continue

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran and Turkey would continue their economic cooperation and will go ahead with implementation of their joint energy projects, a senior Turkish official said Thursday in Ankara.

Turkish Minister of Energy and Natural Resources Recai Kutan said that the project for laying pipelines to transfer Iran's natural gas to Turkey would be inaugurated in May and that another plan to carry Iranian oil to the Mediterranean via Turkey was under study, IRNA reported.

Kutan said that Iran and Turkey would cooperate in this regard when the plan proved to be economical.

Moreover, he said that Shell Oil Company has proposed to transfer Iranian gas to Euorpe through a pipeline via Turkish soil in cooperation with Turkey.

In response to a question on how and when the ongoing diplomatic crisis in Tehran-Ankara ties would be solved, he said that the two sides have maintained their diplomatic ties at charge d'affaires level, but mutual economic activities were going on independent of this issues.

He said that since Turkey would need 27 billion cubic meters of gas annually by 2000, and therefore, Iran would be one of the major suppliers of gas to his country. Turkey now imports eight billion cubic meters of gas from Iran, he added.

As for the U.S. opposition to the transfer of Iranian gas to Turkey, Kutan said that Turkey has explicitly announced that it would not give up its purchase of gas from Iran.

Iran-Azerbaijan Customs Relations Discussed

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Head of Azeri Customs Office, Kamaleddin Hayderev, Wednesday voiced his country's readiness to provide more facilities for Iranian merchants and investors in order to promote Tehran-Baku trade and economic ties.

He made the remark in a meeting with Iran's Ambassador to Baku, Alireza Bigdeli, in which training of Azeri customs agents by Iran, expansion of bilateral customs relations and exchange of customs-related informtion were discussed, IRNA said.

Facilitating movement of trucks of both countries inside Iranian and Azeri territories was also discussed in the meeting.

Trading in TSE

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 9,966,528 shares, worth over Rls. 47.16 billion, were traded at Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) during March 8-12.

Shares of 48 companies increased, while those of 47 others declined. Shares of 19 companies remained unchanged compared to previous week.

General index price of shares for the week reached 1,870.17 points, down by 4.22 points compared to last week.

In the Tehran Stock Exchange, Wednesday was the busiest day of the week, when some 4,418,047 shares, worth over Rls.4.4 billion were traded in 1,139 turns for 609 applicants.

IMF Says India Needs Higher Savings Rate

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - An International Monetary Fund (IMF) Survey has suggested that India needed higher rate of savings to sustain gross domestic product (gdp) growth rates of at least seven percent, report Indian news agencies.

A paper entitled 'improving India's saving performance', published in the latest issue of *IMF* Survey says that to achieve this goal of sustained seven percent growth without relying heavily on foreign borrowing, domestic savings rates must rise.

The *Survey* said the anticipated overall saving rate of 26.5 percent of gdp by 2000-01, in itself, would be insufficient. India's domestic saving rate should need to rise to around 30 percent by the turn of the century to achieve desired growth rate.

It said increased public saving together with strong structural reform, notably financial liberalization was necessary to boost India's domestic savings rate.

It pointed out that public saving weakened to a low 0.5 percent of gdp in 1993-94 from four to five percent in the early 1980s.

Recent increases in savings have particularly been driven by financial household saving, which helped to raise country's savings rate to 25.5 percent in 1995-96. India's savings rate had reached a record 23.5 percent in fiscal 1990-91, but dropped by 2.5 points in the following years, said the *Survey* .

Over the medium term, the *Survey* projects a gradual rise in India's saving rate. Assuming that the government succeeds in reducing the deficit to four per cent of gdp by 2000, public saving should rise to about three per cent of gdp early in the next decade.

If India is to sustain an increase in long-term saving, adds the *Survey* , it must give market participants greater flexibility in portfolio allocation and rely on private sector involvement to boost competition and develop more innovative products.

Iran's Assets Reach Record High

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Iran continued to reduce its net liabilities to foreign bank during the third quarter of last year by increasing assets held with banks reporting to the Bank of International Settlement.

According to the latest report from the Basle-based bank, Iran's assets held in 17 OECD countries reached a record $9.995 billion in September 1997, up $771 million on June and more than $3.5 billion than at the end of 1994, IRNA reported form London.

Over the same period apart, liabilities, have remained fairly.

With a few fluctuations, the overall amount outstanding between December 1994 and the end of the third quarter last year has risen by less than $350 million to $10.4 billion.

The downward trend followed confirmation that Iran honored its debt repayments during 1995 and achieved a more even balance in the distribution by maturity of claims.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES

The following table shows the foreign exchange rates in rials as released by the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran on Thursday, March 13, 1997.

COUNTRY	UNIT	Floating Rates BUY	Floating Rates SELL	Export Rates BUY	Export Rates SELL
Australia	dollar	1,387	1,395	2,382	2,394
Austria	schilling	145	146	250	251
Belgium	(100) francs	4,958	4,987	8,512	8,555
Canada	dollar	1,282	1,289	2,200	2,211
Denmark	krone	268	270	460	463
France	franc	304	306	522	525
Germany	mark	1,023	1,029	1,757	1,766
Holland	guilder	911	916	1,564	1,572
Italy	(100) liras	103	104	177	178
Japan	(100) yen	1,430	1,448	2,455	2,467
Sweden	krone	227	229	391	393
UAE	dirham	476	479	818	820
UK	pound	2,780	2,796	4,772	4,796
U.S.	dollar	1,750	1,755	3,000	3,015

Industries Minister Urges Technical Updating of Plants

Tehran Times Service



TEHRAN - Iran's Industries Minister Mohammadreza Nematzadeh said in Tabriz Thursday that those plants and factories that had not been technologically updated would have to be improved consistent with the status of the art in their field.



He also called on manufacturers to diversify their products as soon as they could and also to improve the quality of their output, IRNA reported.

The Industries Minister of Iran who also saw over Machinsazi Tabriz Factory Thursday paid a personal tribute to its personnel on the factory's having been awarded ISO-90001 license in recognition of its products meeting international standards.

On Thursday, the industries minister also visited the site of a plant for manufacturing high-capacity water pumps and turbines and was briefed on the progress of the work.

The plant is being built with the joint investment of the private sector in Iran and Slovania. Upon completion, it will produce 800 high-capacity water pumps in addition to 400 high capcity turbines.

The assembly line of the plant is expected to start operation in another six months, and its products will be used with dams with a capacity of 48 thousand cubic meter of water per our.

Saudi 1997 Income Set to Surpass Projected Level

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Saudi Arabia's income in 1997 is expected to surpass its projected level by nearly 10 billion dollars as world oil prices are forecast to remain strong, an official report said in Abu Dhabi.

In its quarterly economic and stocks bulletin released on Thursday, the Arab Monetary Fund (AMF) said the exports of the Persian gulf oil giant were expected to reach around 53.8 billion dollars in 1997, AFP reported.

"Expectations are that growth in the global economy will continue this year, which means oil prices will remain as strong as they were last year," the Arab League's main financial organization said.

Oil accounts for the bulk of Sandi Arabia's exports while the rest includes petrochemicals, farming and light industrial products.

Announcing its budget for 1997, Saudi Arabia projected revenues at 164 billion riyals (43.7 billion dollars) and expenditure at 181 billion riyals (48.2 billion dollars). This created a deficit of around 4.5 billion dollars.

Economists said the AMF's projection about Saudi income in 1997 meant the budget could record a surplus for the first time in several years.

But they stressed this depended on whether Riyadh complied with the projected spending level.

"From the past experiences, the Saudi government has shown an inability to abide the specified expenditure for some reasons," an expert said.

"They include the temptation of high prices and the need to ease the domestic debt burden, which is important for economic growth."

A surge of nearly three dollars in oil prices in 1996 brought the world's biggest oil producer and exporter nearly eight billion dollars in additional income, tempting it to use the surplus to pay billions of dollars in arrears for local contractors and farmers.

The extra income could have eliminated Saudi Arabia's budget deficit but it was only slightly cut because of excess spending.

The Abu Dhabi-based AMF said Saudi Arabia had finished payment of its external debt in 1995 and had settled most of its internal debt following the payment of around 5.99 billion dollars to the contractors and farmers in 1996.

It cited official figures from Riyadh as showing the Saudi gross domestic product grew nominally by around 8.7 percent in 1996, nearly double the 4.3 percent growth rate recorded in the previous year.

It attributed the growth to expansions in some public and private sectors and the increase in oil prices to around 20 dollars from 16.8 dollars.

In real terms, the Saudi economy grew by 7.7 percent in 1996 as inflation did not exceed one percent, it said.

The report gave no projections for growth this year but bankers have forecast it at nearly half the 1996 rate.

The report estimated Saudi imports at 27 billion dollars in 1997, indicating there will be a surplus of 26.8 billion dollars.

This will positively affect the current account and consequently the balance of payments.

The report said Saudi Arabia was pressing ahead with plans to diversify its oil-reliant economy and attract foreign investment after it was one of the biggest capital exporters during the oil boom 15 years ago.

" The Saudi government is currently revising investment laws to provide mo.:s incentives to foreign capital to boost the domestic economy," it said.

156 Projects Implemented in Rudsar

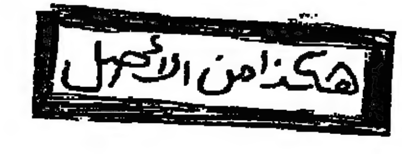
Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN - Some 450 development projects have been accomplished in the Rudsar region, northern Iran, this year (ending March 20), the city's governor Elias Jafari said on Thursday.

According to the official, Rls.35.6 billion have been allocated for the projects, 156 of which have already come on stream, IRNA reported.

Among other facilities, Jafari said, the projects include building of a 96-bed hospital which is one of the largest projects in the town and will be operational soon.

The governor added that arrangements are made for construction of an industrial township in Rudsar area with a view to creating jobs in the region.



SPORTS SUMMARY

Tehran Times Service

Football

PARIS: Monaco stopped the rot convincingly in a 3-0 win at rennes on Thursday which propelled them seven points clear in the French title race after just one point from their previous two games. Sylvain Legwinski scored just before and after the break and Scotland's john Collins added another midway through the second half. Arsenal Hit by Merson Injury.

LONDON: Arsenal's Paul Merson is likely to be out for the rest of the season after undergoing a hernia operation on Thursday. The England midfielder will be out for up to six weeks and will miss third-placed arsenal's premier ship title run-in, as well as England's friendly against Mexico at Wembley on March 29. The news is a major blow for Arsenal boss Arsene Wenger, who has lost a string of key players through injury this season.

Tennis

INDIAN WELLS, California: Albert Berasategui, the only seed left in the top half of the champions cup draw, moved into the quarter-finals on Thursday with a straight-set victory over Jonathan stark. France's Cedric Pioline also reached the round of eight with a three-set win over swedish wild-card Magnuss Larsen.

Badminton

BIRMINGHAM, England: two world champions with differing problems suggested they have gone some way towards solving them by reaching the Semi-finals of the all England badminton championships in contrasting fashion here on Thursday. Men's champion heryanto arbi won in three games against the unseeded Chinese player Luo Yigang and women's winner Ye Zahoying avenged her Atlanta nightmare by outplaying Korean Kim Ji-Hyun 11-7, 11-1.

Golf

LISBON: Australian peter O'malley led the Portuguese open field by two shots from England's van Phillips following Thursday's first round here. O'malley hit seven birdies in a seven under par 65, ahead of Phillips, a claimant to the title 'best-dressed golfer on the European tour'.

Alpine Skiing

VAIL, Colorado: Austria's Andrea's Schifferer won the final world cup super-G of the season here on Thursday. But France's Luc Alphand, who took ninth spot, finished on top of the final world cup super-G standings for his second award — he had already won the downhill title.

Women's Skiing

VAIL, Colorado: Germany's Katja Seizinger won the last women's super-G of the season here on Thursday but second-placed compatriot Hilde Gerg won the super-G overall World Cup title. Seizinger won in a time of 1min 15.73sec, ahead of gerg and martina ertl in a german clean sweep of the top three places.

Cycling

VENISSIEUX, France: Belgium's tom steels on Thursday had his third victory since the start of the Paris-nice cycling race, sprinting home to win the fifth stage here. Steels just finished ahead of Italy's Mario Cipollini and France's world number one Laurent Jalabert, who retained his leader's white jersey in this 198-km stage from Cournon d'Auvergne to Venissieux.

Baseball

NEW YORK: Denying Hideki Irabu free agency violated Major League Baseball's union working agreement and could lead to a court fight, players' association leader Don Fehr warned. The Japanese star pitcher's playing rights remain with the San Diego Padres but Irabu has said he will play only for the world series champion New York Yankees.

Racing

CHELTENHAM, England: Irishman Tony McCoy completed the blue Ribband double here on Thursday winning the Cheltenham gold cup on 20/1 shot Mr. mulligan after winning the champion hurdle on make a stand on Tuesday. Veteran Barton bank, a 33/1 chance ridden by David Walsh, was second and Irish raider Dorans pride, running on ground he didn't like, ridden by Jim Boderick was third at 10/1.

Foreman Looks to Title Past Unbeaten Foe



NEW YORK — Former world heavyweight boxing champion George Foreman, looking past his next opponent, said he has a chance to fight the winner of a May showdown between Mike Tyson and Evander Holyfield.

Foreman looked lackluster in his past two fights, each of which cost him a world title because he refused to fight a designated challenger. He next faces unbeaten Lou Savarese on April 26 in Atlantic City, New Jersey.

But Foreman claims he wants to remain active in the ring "into the 21st Century" and beyond his 50th birthday, which comes on January 10, 1999.

Foreman is looking beyond Savarese, 36-0 with 30 knockouts, and wonders about the possible deal he had worked out to fight Tyson before Holyfield stopped him last November to claim the world boxing association crown.

A title unification fight is expected late this year involving the Holyfield-Tyson winner and the kingpin between Lennox Lewis, Michael Moorer, Vaughn Bean and unbeaten Henry Akinwande. The Tyson-Holyfield winner is likely to fight once before a unification bout. That next foe could be Bowe or Buster Douglas or Foreman, although a more likely Foreman foe after Savarese would be the winner of a May 16 bout here between Rray Mercer and Andrew Golota.

The dream of fighting Tyson prompted Foreman to return to the ring in 1987 after a decade of retirement.

But now the best fighting version of Foreman available to boxing fans is in the movie "When We Were Kings," a documentary of his 1974 loss in Zaire to Mohammed Ali.

(AFP)

When We Were Kings

The sports documentary is the new film genre. After the success of "Hoop Dreams", the fly-on-the-wall story of two Chicago boys obsessed about winning fame and fortune at basketball, a new documentary focuses on a single event in the career of Muhammad Ali: the fight in Kinshasa, Zaire, in October 1974, when he entered the ring as an underdog against the younger stronger George Foreman, and emerged with his world heavyweight boxing title regained and his myth intact.

The "Rumble in the Jungle" (Ali's own term for it) was staged by Don King and a $10 million purse was donated by President Mobutu Sese Seko, who stayed away from the fight he sponsored, for fear of assassination. While training, Forman cut his eye on a sparring partner's elbow, and the event was postponed for six weeks. That gave Ali plenty of time to kill with his favorite interlocutors, the press, and with the movie makers who ended up with hundreds of hours of film footage.

The decision of that footage, "When We Were Kings", directed by Leon Gast, is hero-worship, pure and simple. Ali is filmed sparring, running and, of course, talking. He could charm just about anybody he met. More than 20 years later, Norman Mailer, George Plimpton and other writers who went to Kinshasa recall Ali's wisecracks word for word and naturally how he was stripped of his title for three years because he refused to be conscripted to fight in the Vietnam war.

Today Ali's rhyming taunts have found him a whole new generation of admirers: young black rappers who claim him as their ancestor. Put Ali alongside Mike Tyson or O.J. Simpson, and the cult makes sense, even if the former champion, now in his mid-50s, fought on far too long for his own good.

(Courtesy the Economist)



COLOGNE, Germany (March 11): VFB Stuttgart's Krassimir Balakov (C) is framed by 1.FC Cologne's Sunday Oliseh (L) and Ralf Hauptmann during their German league match here. Stuttgart won the match 5-1. (AFP PHOTO)

Understanding Kung Fu as Described by a Master

By Ja'far Qasempour Jahangir

Skills of Kung Fu

(Part 31)



Timing is the key to a complex attack. So, you should have enough practice in order to become skilled in this field. While practicing, you should avoid unnecessary intentional reactions and if possible offer your rival different sorts of probable responses and in this way make him do slower selective reactions. When the stimuli are combined together, it takes your rival much more time to react. For instance, when he has just finished performing his technique, or is out of his senses or reacts slowly, you can take maximum advantage of his inability and defeat him. A challenger who has the capability to blow just with right hand and leg in different directions, he should also learn to apply both hands and legs because one-direction attack not only limits his own concentration but enables the rival to accelerate his reactions. An athlete who challenges in hope of winning, enjoys self-confidence. While some are embarrassed, lose their temper, fear, are overcome by nausea and even vomit before the match. These feelings are not rare among the beginners and even the veterans. But a self-confident challenger overcomes his feelings as soon as he enters the ring and he is able to do his best. On the other hand, an athlete who merely thinks



of winning may be put under pressure by his muscles. Such a person has become tired and his movements seem unskillful. A challenger should be never lazy and inactive. He should learn to compete and have constant exercises. A real athlete exercises and challenges with speed and ability not needed in normal conditions. According to the experience, an athlete can be active and apply his full energy until it is needed. His potential energy and breath-holding power appear provided that he is active to the best of his capacity. The experienced and veteran athletes do not waste their energy. To say better, they save their energy through getting optimal use of skills and avoiding unnecessary movements. If you want to take full advantage of performing your techniques, you should apply minimum kinetic energy. Meanwhile, you should know that the rotating movements need more energy than the simple ones do because the direction in rotating techniques should be changed very fast.

TEHRAN TIMES



DAMASCUS, Syria (March 11): Sheikh Abed al-Latif al-Khafagi (L) representative of the Iraqi opposition party Jund al-Imam speaks with an unidentified member of the Islamic higher Council of Iraq party (R) in Damascus before they enter into a meeting of 22 opposition Iraq movements who are based in Syria. In the center is an unidentified member of Jund al-Islam movement. The one day meeting is to evaluate the Iraqi opposition work and try to find a unified frame work.

(AFP PHOTO)

Rallies Held in Lebanon to Protest Israeli Occupation

BEIRUT, Lebanon — Lebanon on Friday marked the 19th anniversary of Israel's first invasion of the South with a five-minute work stoppage in the capital and protesters burning Israeli flags in the eastern Bekaa Valley.

There also were anti-Israeli rallies and marches across the country and calls on the Zionist state to end its occupation of a South Lebanon border enclave.

President Elias Hrawi accused Israel of undermining the U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process by refusing to end its occupation of the border strip and by insisting on building Jewish settlements in traditionally Arab East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

In a speech, Hrawi reiterated Lebanon's offer to deploy its small army in the South to stop cross-border attacks, but only after an unconditional Israeli withdrawal.

In a symbolic protest against the occupation of the border enclave, Lebanese across the country hanged yellow ribbons on their chests or on vehicles.

They staged sit-ins and peace marches, condemning the occupation and demanding the implementation of UN Resolution 425, which calls for an unconditional Israeli withdrawal from Lebanese territory.

(AP)

Hezbollah Claims Anti-Zionist Tank Attack

TYRE, Lebanon — The Hezbollah group said on Friday it had destroyed an Israeli tank in the "security zone" occupied by the Zionist state in South Lebanon and "killed and injured its occupants."

The Hezbollah said one of its units "pulverised a Merkava tank traveling on the Jabal Hmayyed-Hariss road at around 1330 GMT" in the Western sector of the occupied zone.

"Members of the crew were killed or injured," the Hezbollah said in a statement issued from Tyre, around 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Beirut and several kilometers (miles) from Israel's self-declared "security zone."

However, a source with the Israeli-allied South Lebanese Army mercenaries (SLA) denied that any casualties had resulted from attacks on the Jabal Hmayyed area.

About an hour earlier, Hezbollah launched an attack using anti-tank rockets and automatic weapons, and claimed to have killed and wounded Israeli soldiers.

The SLA source confirmed the attack but said there were no victims.

Israeli artillery retaliated, firing some 60 shells on the outskirts of several villages in the area, Lebanese police said.

"A house was damaged by the explosion of an Israeli shell at Humin," a police spokesman said.

(AFP)

Eight Islamic Nations to Hold Summit in Istanbul

ANKARA — The heads of state or government of eight Islamic nations will meet in Istanbul in June to mark the formal creation of an economic cooperation group, the Anatolia news agency said Friday.

(AFP)

Duma Passes Law on Procedure for Impeaching President

MOSCOW — Russia's Lower House on Friday approved the first step of a new law defining procedures for impeaching the president on health grounds.

The communist and nationalist-dominated Duma voted 287-22 to approve the first reading of a law "on interruption of the head of state's powers."

To become law, however, it has to pass another two readings and needs the approval of the Upper House, the Federation Council, and President Boris Yeltsin, to become law. Yeltsin has the power to veto Parliament's laws.

During Yeltsin's eight-month absence from the Kremlin due to ill health the Duma tried vainly several times to launch impeachment proceedings.

The new law said the Upper or Lower House could call on the Supreme Court to decree that the president was incapacitated if he had been unable to work normally for four months.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ISRAEL...

The Palestinians for their part welcomed Thursday's UN General Assembly vote as "proof of Israel's isolation," but criticized the United States for being the sole state to vote alongside Israel against the resolution in the UN General Assembly.

The UN text called the building of Jewish neighborhoods in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas "illegal" and a "major obstacle to peace." The resolution, co-sponsored by 42 states including the 15-member European Union, garnered the support of 130 nations.

A U.S. veto prevented a similar resolution from being adopted last week at the UN Security Council.

The world body took up the issue at the request of the Palestinians after Netanyahu gave the go ahead earlier this month to a project to build a new neighborhood for some 30,000 Jews at Har Homa, on the southern edge of East Bait-ul-Moqaddas.

Palestinians, who want to make East Bait-ul-Moqaddas the capital of a future independent state, have warned that the start of construction at Har Homa would spark widespread violent protests.

"This is a world consensus, recognizing Palestinian rights and is clear proof of Israel's isolation," Nabil abu Rudeina, Arafat's top adviser, said of the UN vote.

"We criticize the U.S. decision to vote against this international unanimity," he added in a statement on the official voice of Palestine radio.

Abu Rudeina also played down expectations of a quick summit meeting between Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to try to resolve the crisis caused by Israel's building plans in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas and a series of other contested policy decisions.

"There are no preparations underway at this time for a summit meeting," he said.

(AFP)

Yeltsin Says Summit With Clinton Might Fail

MOSCOW — President Boris Yeltsin warned Friday that his summit next week with President Bill Clinton might not yield agreement on the countries' dispute over NATO, the ITAR-TASS news agency said.

"We may not reach an agreement on NATO," said Yeltsin, who is due to meet Clinton Wednesday and Thursday in Helsinki. He added, however, "We should not see this as a tragedy," the agency said.

Yeltsin said the talks on Russia's relations with an expanded NATO "will be the most difficult in the history of Russian-U.S. relations," another agency, Interfax, quoted him as saying.

Russia is vehemently opposed to NATO's plans to take in former Soviet satellites as members.

Clinton will undergo surgery on his right knee after he injured himself at the home of Australian golfing legend Greg Norman in Palm Beach, Florida around midnight Thursday, CNN said.

The operation to repair a Torn Tendon would take place at the Naval hospital in Bethesda, Maryland, outside Washington, the report said, quoting doctors.

Clinton canceled all scheduled events in Florida and will be heading back to Washington Friday.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

VELAYATI...

attack on a military housing complex at Khobar in eastern Saudi Arabia that killed 19 Americans.

"If the Saudis raise the subject, he will talk about it. We had nothing to do with this attack, and we will tell them that again," said an Iranian diplomat here, asking not to be named.

Apart from the OIC invitation, Velayati will also try to boost economic relations with Riyadh in talks with his Saudi counterpart Prince Saud al-Faisal and Crown Prince Abdallah ibn Abdel Aziz.

Velayati, who has not traveled to the kingdom since May 1993, starts his 24-hour visit in Jeddah on the Red Sea coast.

Iran's Ambassador Mohammad Reza Nuri said the foreign minister would call for the establishment of a joint economic commission, an increase in trade, and closer commercial ties between Tehran and its Persian Gulf Arab neighbors.

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

HOW...

fairs were among important contemporary issues, which needed to be recorded in the history and surveyed.

The president stated that the extremely callow and oppressive stance of the U.S. at the Security Council session was really a disgrace for the United States.

(IRNA)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

ALBANIAN...

chancellor, said the Albanian side agreed with his OSCE delegation that the Balkans state "is no longer able to restore order with its own forces."

"The country will need international help," he said.

He said he told the Albanians that he would take up the issue with Denmark, the current chair nation of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

He added that he would do likewise with the Netherlands, the current president of the European Union.

The OSCE delegation, making its second trip to Albania since the country began slipping into anarchy, traveled from Vienna to Brindisi, Italy, from where they rode a helicopter to the Italian warship Aliseo to meet the Albanian representatives.

Between 250 and 300 Americans have been evacuated aboard U.S. military helicopters from Albania, a State Department official said Friday.

The U.S. nationals were flown out to naval vessels on the Adriatic and taken to Italy, he said.

But the official, who spoke on condition he not be named, said Washington was not contemplating any intervention to prevent Albania from sliding further into anarchy.

"I think it's safe to say that there's great reluctance to intervene in the situation," the official said. "Our first priority is to take out American citizens and U.S. government employees."

At least 11 people have been shot dead in the Albanian capital and nearly 150 injured in the last 24 hours, according to hospital officials Friday who called the situation here "frightening."

The surgeon in charge of the emergency unit at Tirana's number two hospital, Arben Gjata, said 35 people wounded in shooting incidents had showed up in his unit early Friday and others kept trickling in.

NATO ambassadors met briefly and informally Friday to review the crisis in Albania, but limited discussion to an "exchange of information" without making any decision, diplomats said.

Diplomats said the United States, which called the meeting, had no intention of sending a NATO force to Albania, but simply wanted the council "to assess the situation."

"The alliance is not preparing anything, that isn't its role," one of the diplomats said, adding that any proposal along those lines would not reach consensus and no operational details were talked about.

General Klaus Naumann, the head of NATO's military commission, also told German television that no military intervention was planned for the moment.

He said any operation launched from outside the country would need some kind of legal foundation like a mandate from the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

(AFP)

(Contd From Pg. 1)

BIG...

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei arrived here Thursday morning to a warm welcome of the local officials and residents of this south-western city.

People have been waiting for the arrival of their beloved Leader since the early hours this morning. They had lined up on both sides of the route of Ayatollah Khamenei hours before his arrival to greet him.

The local Arab-speaking tribal people of the city were chanting slogans welcoming the Leader.

Meanwhile Ayatollah Khamenei, who is on a routine visit to Iran's Khuzestan Province here Thursday paid a personal tribute to the people of Dezful for their resistance against Iraqi forces during the war years.

He said the people of Dezful, as those elsewhere in Iran, owed it to their religious faith and to their revolutionary fervor for having bravely held out in the war years.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the present era is one marked by an Islamic wakefulness and manifestation of shocking realities which, he said, had become gradually apparent as the people of Iran, relying on the culture introduced by Islam and the Holy Qoran, instituted a revolution challenging a political system in the country that was dependent on the world arrogance.

He said the people of Iran are determined to rely on their own mental capacity for developing their country and for making good on that part of their national backwardness that, he said, has been due to the previous domination in Iran of the world arrogance.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also paid a personal tribute to the martyrs of Dezful and of other towns and cities of the province.

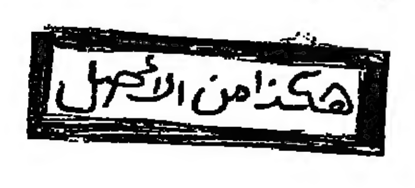
(IRNA)

(Contd From Pg. 2)

QOM...

Hoj. Ahmad Khomeini was one of the prominent figures who fought to bring down the regime of the criminal Shah and that all throughout Imam Khomeini's years of exile he spared no effort at preserving the role of the Qom seminary.

Hojjatoleslm Seyed Ahmad Khomeini, who would have turned 50, died on March 17, 1995 following a massive heart attack on March 12, 1995.



Summons to Be Issued for Prominent Dissident in Murder Case

PHNOM PENH — A Cambodian court is to issue a summons to prominent dissident Sam Rainsy compelling him to answer allegations that he ordered the murder of a relative of second Prime Minister Hun Sen, senior police officials said Wednesday.

The summons, expected to be issued Thursday, is not an arrest warrant but similar documents have been used in the past as a prelude to arrest, according to human rights workers and lawyers.

It was not clear when the summons would be issued to Sam Rainsy, president of the unrecognized opposition Khmer Nation Party (KNP), as he left Cambodia Wednesday for a fund-raising trip to Australia.

He is not expected back in the country until March 22, according to his wife Tioulong Saumura.

According to the police officials, investigating judges at Phnom Penh Municipal Court decided they had enough evidence to call Sam Rainsy before them after listening to a taped statement by the KNP's security chief Srun Vong Vannak, who has been charged with the murder.

"During the discussions (between police and judges) today, the court was satisfied that it had enough evidence to invite him (Sam Rainsy) to respond to questions," said a senior police official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

In the tape, which police described as a "confession," Srun Vong Vannak, who has been in police custody since February 14, claimed that Sam Rainsy had ordered him to arrange the murder of Khov Samuth, the official said.

Khov Samuth, a senior Interior Ministry official and Hun Sen's brother-in-law, was gunned down in broad daylight on November 19 as he left a popular Phnom Penh restaurant.

Hun Sen, the powerful leader of the formerly communist Cambodian People's Party (CPP), said he thought the murder was politically motivated and blamed "certain politicians" whom he did not name for the crime.

The murder took place just three days after alleged Khmer Rouge defectors accused the royalist Funcinpec Party of conspiring to cover up links between the KNP and the guerrilla movement.

Last month, Funcinpec, the CPP's main partner in the current coalition government, and the KNP joined a political alliance called the National United Front that believe will contest upcoming scheduled elections against the CPP's own alliance.

Before he left for Australia, Sam Rainsy and KNP members staged a demonstration calling for the release of Srun Vong Vannak who they say is being illegally detained and may have been coerced into confessing to the crime.

The demonstration took place as a senior United Nations official denounced as "illegal" the detainment in isolation of Srun Vong Vannak who has been held by police since mid-February without access to a lawyer.

"We ask that the government allow immediate access to (Srun Vong Vannak) for his lawyers to begin to prepare his case," said Thomas Hammarberg, UN special representative for human rights in Cambodia.

"We believe it is very important that in a case like this one, which could have political overtones, procedure be followed," Hammarberg said by phone from the northwest province of Battambang where he is on an inspection tour.

The KNP, Hammarberg and the human rights group Amnesty International noted that Cambodian law forbids the detention of a criminal suspect for more than 48 hours without access to a lawyer or an appearance before a judge and that Srun Vong Vannak had been held for 27 days.

Until late Tuesday, when two members of Parliament where allowed to see Srun Vong Vannak in prison, his whereabouts and condition were unknown.

Police officials maintain that Srun Vong Vannak is not being held against his will but is in protective custody because he fears retribution for his confession.

Sam Rainsy, who has alleged that the arrest is a prelude to false accusations that he ordered the murder of Khov Samuth, said the confession police claim to have secured from Srun Vong Vannak was coerced.

"Extorted confessions by torture cannot be used against (him) in a court of law," Sam Rainsy said, adding that confidential police documents showed that he had recanted.

Police, however, defended their actions in the case.

"What we have done and what we are going to do is all in accordance with the laws of Cambodia," said one senior official.

Sam Rainsy "has accused us of detaining Vannak illegally but we have allowed MPs to see him to prove that he wasn't beaten in confessing."

(AFP)

U.S. Congress Ready to Vote Against "Certifying" Mexico

WASHINGTON — The U.S. House of Representatives on Thursday was expected to reject a White House decision certifying Mexico as an ally in the fight against global drug trafficking.

A measure before the Republican-controlled chamber expresses frustration and anger at Mexico's lack of cooperation and seeks to overturn President Bill Clinton's March 1 decision to certify Mexico as a full U.S. partner in the antidrug fight.

The House action, however, would suspend the economic sanctions that normally go along with decertification because they would be against U.S. "national interest.

The measure also would delay decertification for 90 days to give Mexican authorities time to show that it is cooperating with U.S. drug-fighting efforts.

On Thursday, Mexican Foreign Minister Jose Angel Gurria said Mexico would not accept any terms imposed by the U.S. Congress and emphasized that the only way to address the drug problem is "through cooperation."

Drug trafficking is "a shared problem in that the common enemy is the drug trafficker and not a particular country," he said in an interview with Radio Red.

Clinton renewed Mexico's certification after a heated debate fueled by the February 18 arrest of Mexican General Jesus Gutierrez Rebollo. He is imprisoned on charges of protecting the nation's most notorious drug kingpins

In another embarassing incident, Humberto Garcia Abrego, considered the finance chief of the Gulf of Mexico drug cartel and the brother of jailed drug lord Juan Garcia Abrego, disappeared from custody in Mexico on February 27.

Under the House measure, certification would be granted only if the White House could show that Mexico has taken steps in six areas.

These include allowing a greater number of armed U.S. antidrug agents to work in Mexico, easing corruption in its bureaucracy and allowing the extradition of a greater number of its citizens to the United States for trial.

Mexico also must authorize U.S. aircraft to overfly its territory as well as allow U.S. ships to pursue suspected drug traffickers in its territorial waters.

The text of the measure — which is critical toward the Clinton administration's drug fighting campaign — requires a vote by both chambers of Congress. Even then, Clinton could veto the measure, requiring each chamber to muster a two-thirds majority to override it.

The proposal advanced by the Republican majority "is a slap in the face of our neighbor to the south and and slap in the face of our president," said congressman Martin Frost, a Democrat from Texas.

Clinton, who is set to visit Mexico next month, joined key members of his cabinet earlier this week in urging several key senators not to follow the House.

The president has said he would veto the measure, arguing that support for Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo is the only way to curb drug trafficking along the 3,000-kilometer (1,900-mile) U.S.-Mexico border.

Mexico, which has received certification each year since the process began in 1986, remains a main transit point for South American cocaine as well as marijuana and heroin, U.S. authorities say.

(AFP)



BIKINI ATOLL, Marshall Islands (Feb. 24): Four elderly Bikini women who have not set foot on their island since U.S. nuclear testing began in 1946 break the radioactive ground on Bikini Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands to signal their desire to return home. The Marshallese say they are ready to start the nuclear cleanup if the U.S. government will take responsibility for the safety of the islanders.

(AFP PHOTO)

Singapore Tiff With Critic Sets Off Row With Malaysia

SINGAPORE — A defeated opposition candidate fighting multimillion dollar lawsuits by Singapore's top leaders Wednesday said he might seek asylum overseas as a diplomatic row flared over his presence in Malaysia.

Lawyer Tang Liang Hong told AFP by telephone from the Malaysian city of Johor Bahru that "I do not rule out such an option," but stressed that "I have not sought any political asylum up to this moment."

"I cannot rule out this possibility in view of the very heated relationship between me and the Singapore government," he said without naming possible asylum countries.

The High Court on Monday ruled in favor of Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, former Prime Minister Lee Kuan Yew and nine other leaders of the ruling People's Action Party (PAP) who filed defamation cases against Tang.

The leaders earlier gained an international injunction freezing all assets of Tang and his wife up to 11.2 million Singapore dollars (U.S.$8 million) in order to cover whatever damages they would seek.

Tang, who reportedly owns property in Malaysia, is preparing an appeal against the High Court decision.

Tang's presence in southern Malaysia's Johore state, just across a causeway from Singapore, triggered a diplomatic row when Malaysia demanded an apology and retraction from Lee over remarks he made about Johore.

The outspoken former prime minister who led Singapore's breakup with the Malaysian Federation in 1965 had questioned Tang's decision to flee to Johore, portraying it as a crime-ridden state.

Tang fled to Johore right after narrowly losing a bid to enter Parliament under the opposition Workers' Party banner in last January's general elections, saying he and his family had received death threats.

Lee, 73, in an affidavit filed with a court as part of his lawsuits against Tang, said: "That place is notorious for shootings, muggings and car-jackings. It did not make any sense for a person who claims to be fearful for his life to go to a place like Johore."

In Kuala Lumpur, Malaysian Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi told reporters that a regular cabinet meeting Wednesday discussed Lee's remarks, and ministers demanded that Lee retract his statement immediately.

"All the cabinet members are offended. They are shocked and baffled at his derogatory statement as his view reflects a sentiment that is hostile, and an utter lack of concern and sensitivity for the goodwill between Malaysia and Singapore," Abdullah said.

Lee was also denounced by Malaysia's opposition Democratic Action Party and the youth wing of Malaysia's Umno Party, which heads the ruling National Front.

The Umno said Lee had dragged Malaysia into his country's internal politics, calling his remarks "nonsensical," Bernama news agency said.

In a news conference in Johore on Tuesday, Tang said he would heed calls to return to Singapore only if Prime Minister Goh gave a written assurance that he would not be arrested.

Tang, 63, earlier expressed fears that he might be arrested under Singapore's internal security act, which allows for detention without trial, or for contempt of court.

Tang's wife, named a codefendant in the lawsuits, has been unable to leave Singapore because the authorities seized her passport after her husband fled. (AFP)

Sri Lanka Tightens Gun Laws

COLOMBO — Sri Lanka Wednesday announced a further tightening of its already tough gun control laws, making the possession of illegal firearms a nonbailable offense.

Justice Minister G. L. Peiris said the government will introduce, within 10 days, regulations under the tough emergency laws to ensure that offenders be given a minimum of seven years in jail.

Already, gun offenses carry the death penalty but judges can use their discretion to reduce sentences.

"It is unusual for us to specify a minimum sentence," Peiris told reporters here. "But all political parties and society want us to impose tough penalties to rapidly bring the situation under control."

An amnesty for those surrendering illegal firearms is due to expire on Saturday.

Despite the amnesty, police have stepped up their crackdown in a bid to minimize political violence ahead of March 21 local council elections. (AFP)

Sharif's Party Clinches Clear Majority in Pakistani Senate

ISLAMABAD — The ruling Pakistan Muslim League (PML) of Premier Nawaz Sharif Wednesday boosted its massive parliamentary strength by gaining a comfortable majority in the Senate, Upper House.

The PML and its allies emerged clear winners as provincial deputies forming the electoral college for the Senate voted to fill 46 seats vacated in the 86-member House by retiring senators.

Sharif's party already commands a two-third majority in the directly elected 217-member National Assembly after having won a landslide victory in the February 3 elections which followed the dismissal of Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto in November.

Fifteen Senate candidates were elected unopposed, including 10 from Punjab who all belong to Sharif's party, which now commands a sizable majority in the Senate with the support of its allies, unofficial results showed.

Asif Ali Zardari, the jailed husband of Bhutto, won a seat in the Senate from the couple's southern home Province of Sindh.

Another two seats from Karachi were secured by members of Bhutto's Pakistan People's Party.

The ethnic Mohajir Qaumi Movement, an ally of Sharif's party, claimed three seats with the PML getting an equal number from Karachi.

In the northwest frontier province, the Awami National Party, a partner of the PML, got four seats while Sharif's party secured five seats.

The Jamhoori Watan Party, the Baluchistan National Party and the PML secured two seats each from southwestern Baluchistan Province.

The remaining seats contested in the elections went to fringe groups and independent candidates. (AFP)

Axe Falls on 62,000 Rats in Rural Vietnam

HANOI — A provincial official in northern Vietnam said on Saturday that local villagers near Hanoi had handed in 62,629 rat tails following a cash-for-rodent campaign.

He said 100 dong (less than one cent) had been paid for each rat or mouse tail produced.

It was quite successful. We burnt the tails in a large pit. No people got hurt but a few chickens and dogs died, he told Reuters.

Communal purges on rats and mice, which eat staple crops such as rice and sweet potatoes, are common in Vietnam. *(Reuter)*

Indian Student Killed After Exam Riot

NEW DELHI — One person was killed and twelve injured in central India Wednesday when police opened fire on students who rioted after being accused of cheating during an exam, the United News of India (UNI) said.

Police officials in the town of Tikamgarh in the state of Madhya Pradesh said the trouble broke out when students were caught cheating during their annual exam.

The students argued that the violence was caused not by cheating but because of a late change of venue for the exam.

They responded to the change by pelting stones at school authorities and opening fire on police

Zairean Rebels Aim to Take Kisangani Within Days



KINDU, Zaire (March 11): Leader of the Zairean guerrillas who have seized vast swathes of eastern territories, Laurent-Desire Kabila, speaks at a rally in Kindu, which was taken by the rebels two weeks ago. Kabila ruled out a cease-fire before negotiations with the Kinshasa government. Kabila returned March 12 to his headquarters at Goma. *(AFP PHOTO)*

GOMA, Zaire — Zairean rebel leader Laurent-Desire Kabila on Friday said his anti-government forces will capture Kisangani, the last military stronghold in the east, within days.

Kinshasa's army has vowed that Zaire's third largest town will not fall, but Kabila stated that the rebel noose was tightening and that his men were under 43 kilometers (fewer than 30 miles) from Kisangani.

The rebels claimed to have cut access roads to Kisangani, which is also a base for attempts to provide relief for scores of thousands of Rwandan refugees and displaced Zaireans.

"We fought back (the regular army) on the road from Kisangani to Lubutu (240 kilometers — 150 miles to the southeast). They came and we dispersed them.

They left bodies and weapons. We are winning all the fighting," Kabila said in the rebel headquarter's town Goma.

He denied a Zairean army report that dozens of rebels, including two officers, had been killed, accusing the military of taking their desires for reality.

Meanwhile, each side traded charges of mercenary involvement in the fighting. The general staff in Kinshasa said rebels had been supported by an armoured column of Angolan government troops who invaded from neighbouring Uganda.

A military statement said two Angolan officers had been killed and that Zairean troops had found campaign papers on one of their bodies. *(AFP)*

Clinton to Attend U.S.-Russia Summit

WEST PALM BEACH, Florida — U.S. President Bill Clinton tore a tendon in his knee early Friday after stumbling on stairs at the home of golf pro Greg Norman. He was supposed to undergo surgery to repair the damage, his doctors said.

The damage to his right knee was described as substantial.

Clinton was admitted at Bethesda Naval Hospital around 12 p.m. (1700 gmt) and the surgery was to be performed later in the afternoon, his doctors said.

Clinton tore his quadriceps tendon, which connects the upper thigh to the kneecap. He did not fall.

The president suffered a 50 percent tear of his tendon, requiring surgery to repair.

Clinton said later that he will go to Helsinki to meet with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday and Thursday. *(AP)*

Prosecutors Probe Allegations of Wrongdoing by S. Korean President's Son

SEOUL — South Korean prosecutors on Friday launched a fresh investigation into allegations that Kim Hyun-Chul, the second son of President Kim Young-Sam, was involved in wrongdoing, officials said.

"We are checking widely whether there is anything that might constitute a crime in suspicions that have been raised so far," senior prosecutor Choi Byung-Guk told journalists.

"If anything new comes out, we'll do everything to get to the bottom of it," fellow senior prosecutor Choi Myung-Sun said.

In a parallel move auditors plan to reopen the explosive loans-for-kickbacks scandal involving the Hanbo Business Group and ruling party figures amid mounting allegations of cover-up, Yonhap news agency said.

Yonhap quoted a high-ranking official of the ruling New Korea Party (NLP) as saying a special audit would be carried out by either the office of bank supervision or the office of audit and inspection.

Television reports said the prosecutors were set to summon a close aide to the president's son for questioning.

The aide, who operates a trading company, is suspected of having bought a large package of real estate with dubious funds after Kim Young-Sam became president in early 1993. *(AFP)*

Li Peng: N.Korea Defector Crisis Close to Resolution

BEIJING — The long-running issue of a top-ranking North Korean defector holed up in the South Korean mission in Beijing is close to resolution, Premier Li Peng said Friday.

"The conditions are nearly ripe to solve this issue," Li told reporters.

Hwang Jang-Yop, 74 — the most senior North Korean ever to flee the country — has been holed up in the South Korean Consulate building here for a month since he defected on February 12.

Li stressed that the interests of all parties involved in the issue had to be taken into consideration before an acceptable solution could be found. *(AFP)*

N. Irish Police Probe Blast in Catholic Belfast

BELFAST — Northern Irish police said on Thursday they were investigating an explosion in a Catholic area of east Belfast.

Security sources said an ambulance had been sent to the scene and there might have been injuries. A British security forces patrol was in the area at the time.

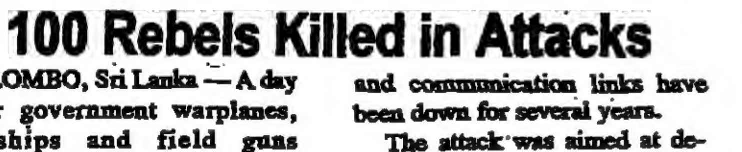
The sources said the incident might have been an attack by Irish Republican Army guerrillas fighting to end British rule.

All we know is a patrol was in the area and an explosion occurred. An ambulance has been sent to the scene. It looks as though there are injuries but we don't know how many or how serious, one security source said.

The blast happened in the short strand district, a Catholic enclave in the largely pro-British protestant east of the city.

Earlier on Thursday a British soldier was hurt when suspected IRA guerrillas threw a grenade at an armored vehicle in north Belfast. (Reuter)

Sri Lanka Radio Says More Than 100 Rebels Killed in Attacks



COLOMBO, Sri Lanka — A day after government warplanes, warships and field guns bombarded Tamil Tiger positions in northeastern Sri Lanka, state radio Friday put the guerrilla death toll at more than 100.

A flotilla of naval gunboats shelled coastal bases of the rebels' naval wing near Mullaittivu town Thursday, helped by artillery from the nearby Weli-Oya military base and jets from the capital, the military said.

The Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corp. quoted unidentified defense sources as saying rebel radio intercepts indicated more than 100 rebels were killed in the three-hour attack on "identified targets."

A military spokesman in Colombo, Major D. Ranawaka, said military intelligence had yet to pick up rebel transmission on the attack.

Civilians in the northern Vavuniya town who heard the Clandestine radio station said it reported that one fisherman was killed and several others were injured in the attacks. It also reported that a church was damaged and several huts were burnt.

It was not possible to get independent confirmation since the government has banned journalists from visiting the war region and communication links have been down for several years.

The attack was aimed at destroying a major rebel base in the jungles of Mullaittivu, 250 kilometers (155 miles) northeast of Colombo. In July, the rebels overran a nearby military base on the coast of Mullaittivu, wiping out its 1,200 defenders in the biggest battle of the 14-year war. *(AFP)*

Blast Kills Six in India's Punjab

JALANDHAR, India — Six people were killed and 11 injured Friday when a powerful bomb exploded near a railway station in the northern Indian city, police and witnesses here said.

The police said three rickshaw drivers, a policeman and two train passengers were killed outside the city railway station. No one has claimed responsibility.

The policeman was directing traffic outside the crowded city station when he was hit by shrapnel and died instantly, witnesses added.

The police said four of the 11 injured were hospitalized in critical condition, most with shrapnel wounds. *(AFP)*



UNITED NATIONS, United States (March 12): Dr. M. Nasser Al-Kidwa, United Nations Palestinian representative, addresses the UN General Assembly on the situation in the Middle East involving Israel's decision to build new settlements in East Bait-ul-Moqaddas. Frustated by a U.S. veto in the Security Council March 7, Palestinians and their Arab allies have turned to the General Assembly to apply international pressure on Israel. *(AFP PHOTO)*

Jordanian Attacker Mentally Ill

AMMAN – The Jordanian soldier accused of killing seven Israeli schoolgirls in a shooting rampage is mentally ill and has no political affiliation, his family said Friday.

The mother of 30-year-old Ahmad Mussa Mustapha Dakamseh said her son had been "receiving psychiatric treatment for two years."

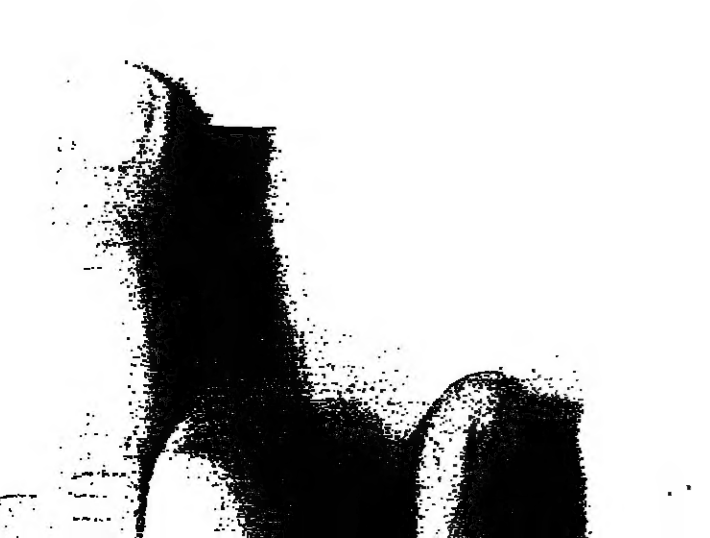
Oum Qassem appealed for "clemency from King Hussein" because her son "is sick and did not know what he was doing," when he opened fire Thursday on the teenage girls visiting a border tourist site.

Seven Israeli girls were killed and five others wounded, including a teacher, when Dakamseh reportedly opened fire without warning as about 80, 12 and 13 years old girls visited a spot known as "peace island."

Dakamseh was grabbed by other Jordanian soldiers, but some Israeli witnesses said the troops stood by without reacting until the attacker ran out of bullets.

Dakamseh was an army driver who had to grab a rifle from another soldier to carry out the attack, reports in Israel said.

Qassem added that "all my son's medical reports and medication were seized by the military personnel investigating the attack." *(AFP)*



هكذا من الإعلام

Chemical Attack on Halabja: Culprits Moving Around With Full Impunity

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — With the outbreak of the Iraqi imposed-war against Iran in September 1980, the Iraqi regime in pursuance of the notorious doctrine of "ends justifies means" considered the employment of any means legitimate, even if it is of the most cruel and disastrous nature, to achieve its end. The Iraqi regime began its aggression in an attempt to get itself out of the impasse it had been entangled in as the result of consecutive defeats it had suffered and in a bid to achieve the goals it pursued in invading Iran.

To accomplish its objectives, the Iraqi regime in contravention to the 1925 Geneva Convention waged a chemical warfare against the Islamic Republic of Iran in southern fronts in the summer of 1982, using tear gas and toxic weapons. In 1984, the Iraqi regime, for the first time in the history of chemical warfare, employed nerve gas against the Iranian soldiers. It continuously and massively used mustard gas and other toxic gases in different theaters including in Majnoon islands, Kurdestan, Sardasht, Fav peninsula and finally in Halabja, causing heavy human losses.

In 1986 and 1987, Islamic Republic of Iran inflicted crushing defeats on the Iraqi army, which had to enter into war in two fronts against Iran and the Iraqi Kurds. Although Saddam Hussein had supported the limited autonomy of the Kurds, he did not care so much for putting it into practice. When the war turned against Saddam, he thought of using the fifth column.

In the course of the war, Iraq had repeatedly displaced the Kurds and expelled thousands of the Barezani tribesmen, evacuating the villages on joint borders with Iran and settling them in other places. By late 1987 reports reaching here indicated that Iraq had used chemical weapons against the Iraqi Kurds. In March 1988 the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK) joined the Iranian forces in operations to drive out the Iraqi forces out of Halabja. Hence, Iraq used chemical gases against Halabja, massacring 6,000 civilians. The Halabja massacre and escape *of tens of thousands of Iraqi Kurds* to Iran and Turkey shocked the world.

A close relatives of Saddam Hussein, Ali Hasan Al-Majeed, was commissioned to carry out the task and became Defense Minister after accomplishing the task.

However, the use of chemical weapons not only had failed to change the course of war, but also infuriated the world over the inhuman acts of the Iraqi regime. Consequently, the United Nations took certain measures, condemning use of chemical weapons and despatched its experts to the region to investigate application of toxic gas.

The UN Security Council issued 3 statements and one resolution in connection with the application of chemical weapons in the Iraqi war against Iran.

In the first statement, issued on March 30, 1984, although the UNSC confirmed employment of the chemical weapons, it failed to name Iraq as the user of the chemical weapons in the war against Iran.

At the same time Iran announced that the Iraqi forces have used chemical weapons against Iranian troops at least 49 times, from May 1, 1981 to March, 1984.

The Second statement of the council was issued on April 25, 1985, which confirmed the use of chemical weapons against the Iranian troops.

In December 1985, the then U.S. undersecretary of state, Richard Morphie, told the Congress that the application of chemical weapons since the first World War had reached its peaked during the Iraq-Iran war.

Upon the report of the medical team, the Security Council on March 21, 1986 confirmed employment of chemical weapons of mass destruction against the Iranian forces. In the statement for the first time the members of the Security Council confirmed that the Iraqi regime had used toxic gas against the Iranian troops.

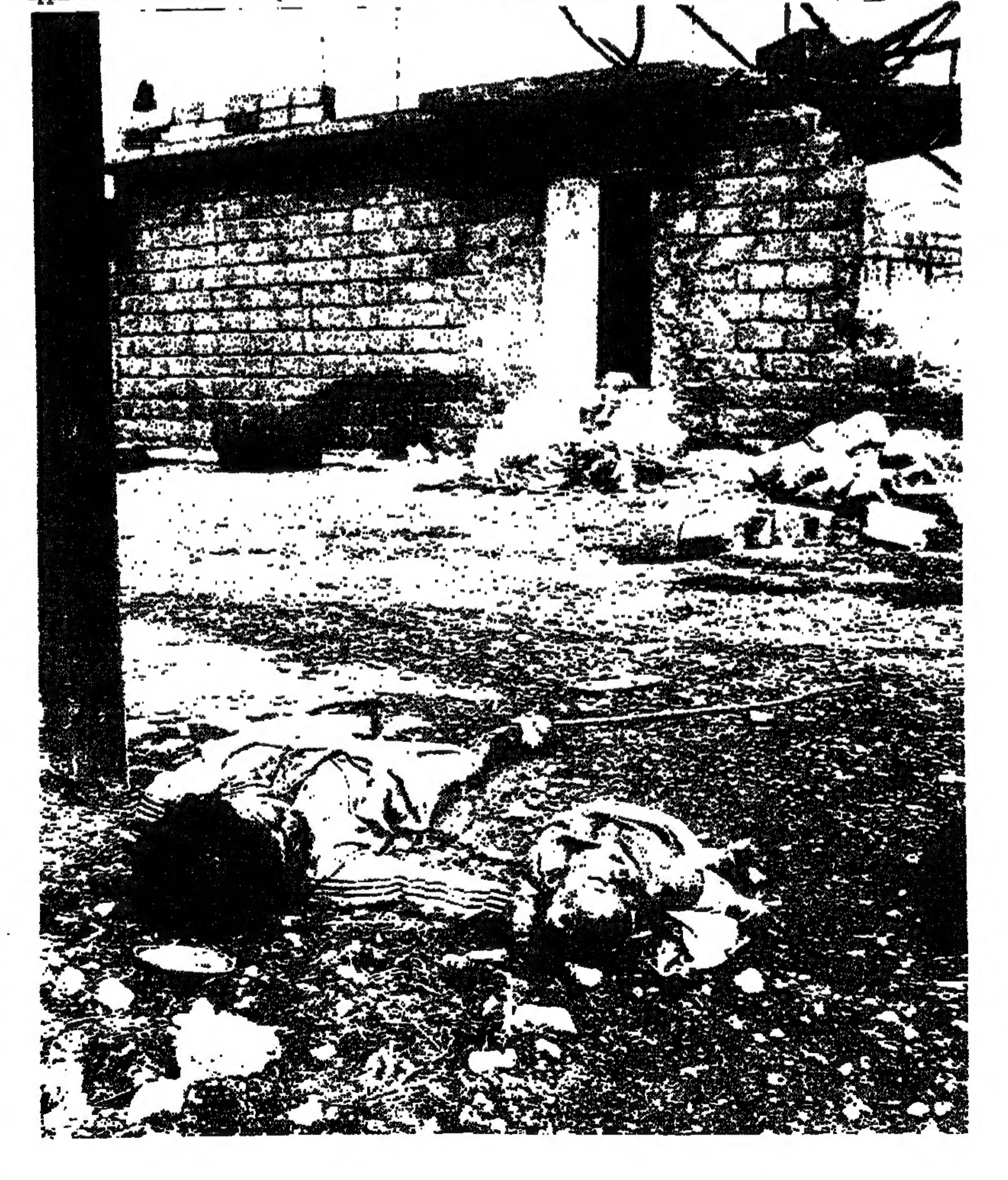
Upon the confirmation of the UN medical team of the use of chemical weapons against the civilian Kurds in Iraq, particularly in Halabja, the Security Council issued a resolution denouncing application of chemical warfare, calling for exertion of strict control over production and export of substances required for producing chemical weapons.

However, it is clear that by invading Iran, the Iraqi regime opened two fronts against itself, within and without the country. When the two crises worsened the Iraqi regime tried to manage the crises by using chemical weapons.

Employment of chemical weapons in Halabja itself indicated the helplessness of the Iraqi regime. The chemical attack on Halabja which claimed lives of 6,000 civilians will remain an stigma in the history of Saddam's regime. It is not yet clear why should not international organizations like UN take an action against such crimes against humanity.







Whales, Salt Miners Share Promised Land

GUERRERO NEGRO, Mexico — Halfway down Mexico's Baja California Peninsula, where desert and virgin coastline meet in a quirk of nature that draws both gray whales and human salt miners, one of Mexico's most heated environmental battles is being fought.

The lagoons of this isolated outpost, large and shallow inlets with small mouths to the sea, have long been the ideal mating and calving grounds for the gray whale, calm waters in which to give birth and escape the arctic cold of the Bering Strait, where the whales feed during summer.

"Now it's no longer just a political decision if a project of this magnitude is approved or not. Now there's a scientific committee that will advise those making the decision. It's something very good that has come out of all the polemic."

During the late winter birthing season, tourists from around the world flock to Guerrero Negro to watch the friendly whales splash about the lagoon, launching themselves into the air. Some snuggle up to tourist boats like puppies, allowing themselves to be patted on the back. At up to 40 feet (12 meters) long, they dwarf the boats, sometimes bringing along their young, who are about 14 feet (4.3 meters) long at birth.

But the lagoons here are also the ideal place for humans to mine salt, an ingredient in high world demand, not so much to sprinkle over food but for industrial uses such as making glass, plastic and bleach and deicing roads.

The high salt content of the lagoon helps the whales float while giving birth and also makes salt mining better.

World's Largest Saltmine

In the small town of Guerrero Negro, alongside Scammon's Lagoon, known locally as Laguna Ojo De Liebre, the world's largest salt mine churns out 7 million tons of salt per year in a joint venture between Japan's Mitsubishi Corp and the Mexican government.

The company wants to expand operations to a second lagoon, a plan the Group of 100, Mexico's most prominent environmental group, calls ecocide. The company counters that the project would do no harm to the whales and that opponents need only take a closer look at their proposal to agree.

A special commission led by seven scientists from four countries is studying the issue and will make recommendations next year to Mexico's National Ecology Institute (INE), which can accept or reject the proposal.

"This project is interesting in the way it changed environmental policy in Mexico," Jose Angel Sanchez Pacheco, a local marine biologist with INE, told Reuters during a tour of the lagoon.

"Now it's no longer just a political decision if a project of this magnitude is approved or not," he said. "Now there's a scientific committee that will advise those making the decision. It's something very good that has come out of all the polemic."

The joint venture, Exportadora De Sal Sa De CV, sells its product to both coasts of North America, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, New Zealand, Mexico and Colombia. It wants to replicate its longtime operation at Scammon's Lagoon at San Ignacio Lagoon, about 90 miles (150 km) to the south.

Environmentalists loathe the proposal. To them the gray whale is a quintessential success story, having been removed from the endangered species list in 1994 after the world whaling ban allowed its population to grow to about 25,000 today from just a few hundred in the 1940s.

Brigitte Bardot Backs Whales, Not Salt

Brigitte Bardot has spoken out against the salt project and more than 60 international environmental groups came to the aid of the Group of 100, which raised enough money to buy a full-page advertisement of protest in the *New York Times*.

"This is the most pristine of the three nurseries," Betty Ferber, the international coordinator of the Group of 100, said of San Ignacio Lagoon. "Once you build something like this you can't go back."

But supporters of the project say the opponents protest out of ignorance, unaware that the proposal would not hurt the whales at all. "They're poets," said Javier Lopez, the mayor of Guerrero Negro and a champion of the salt-mine expansion.

Non-scientific backers of the salt mine expansion say that based on 40 years of lay observation they already know there would be no negative impact. "We've operated 40 years here exporting salt, and in 40 years the number of whales has doubled," company official Joaquin Ardura told Reuters. "With each day more whales enter this lagoon. We haven't seen that our operation affects them."

Ocean-based salt mining is a relatively simple process of drawing water from the lagoon, trapping it in huge natural basins separated by manmade dikes and letting the sun and wind do the rest, evaporating the water until, after two years, all that is left is salt. Scarce rainfall here helps.

The proposed project would draw 600 million tons of sea water from San Ignacio Lagoon per year, which some fear could change the temperature or salinity of lagoon water. Additional ship traffic could interfere with whale migration patterns.

The proposed project would draw 600 million tons of sea water from San Ignacio Lagoon per year, which some fear could change the temperature or salinity of lagoon water. Additional ship traffic could interfere with whale migration patterns.

But until the study is done, expected about a year and a half from now, it is all speculation, experts said. *(Reuter)*

Illegal Body Trafficking on the Rise in Egypt

Dozens of corpses and hundreds of limbs disappear each month from Cairo cemeteries and most of them end up in the inexperienced hands of the city's numerous medical students.

CAIRO — Illegal trafficking in dead bodies is thriving in Egypt on the back of booming demand for corpses fuelled by growing numbers of medical students and the drug trade's latest fad.

Dozens of corpses and hundreds of limbs disappear each month from Cairo cemeteries and most of them end up in the inexperienced hands of the city's numerous medical students, a police spokesman said.

Said Sabeth, a professor of gynecology at Cairo University, said demand for corpses by medical students had spiralled since last year when two new private universities opened in Egypt.

"There is a growing number of medical students and a very limited number of corpses is allocated to them. The shortage became more obvious when two private universities opened," Sabeth said.

Schools of medicine usually obtain free of charge the corpses of people who die in road accidents, public hospitals or state prisons and have no known next of kin, Sabeth said, adding that bodies can be used for up to two years after being treated.

Cairo Prosecutor Zakareya Abdel Aziz has called for increased penalties against those convicted of desecrating tombs — a crime which carries a three-year prison sentence, the government daily *Al-Ahram* reported.

Abdel Aziz also urged the authorities to deploy more policemen outside Cairo's numerous cemeteries.

But Amin Tantawi, director of the Gynecology Department at the Faculty of Medicine in the northern city of Tanta, said Stiffer penalties would not solve the problem.

"Egyptian universities simply don't have the means to buy mannequins for their medical students like they do in the West so the students are literally forced to get their hands on freshly-buried corpses to do their work," he said.

"When I was a student in the 60s, we worked in groups of eight on a corpse, nowadays 100 students must content themselves with watching their professor carry out an autopsy on a corpse," Tantawi added.

"They cut off the top part of the skull ... and reduce it to powder so as to mix it into the heroin which they believe has the same texture."

Police said some doctors are involved in the corpse trafficking business and that 17 bodies preserved in formol tubs were recently discovered at the home of a Cairo physician who used them for private lessons.

Drug dealers are also being linked with the rise in body-snatching.

Police sources said some dealers grind down part of the human skull and mix the powder with heroin to cut the drug.

"They cut off the top part of the skull ... and reduce it to powder so as to mix it into the heroin which they believe has the same texture," said a police officer, who asked to remain anonymous.

"They believe that skull powder has a similar property to narcotics and many users seem to have a preference for the heroin-skull powder mix," he added.

Tantawi dismissed this as "pure commercial fraud" and stressed that the skull has no hallucinogenic properties.

Police meanwhile blame gravediggers for keeping the corpse traffic alive.

But the doyen of Cairo's gravediggers, the elderly Mohamed Seneibar, stressed his 500 colleagues in he city were innocent and blamed the crime on "specialized gangs."

"True we live in the cemeteries but our task here is to bury the dead not protect them," said Seneibar, who along with four other members of his family is responsible for 1,000 graves at the Bab al-Wazir Cemetery in eastern Cairo.

"Specialized gangs of thieves follow funeral processions to see where the dead are buried and then they go back there to dig them up" and sell the corpses, he said.

Meanwhile, increased demand has led to higher prices.

A dentist, who asked to remain anonymous, said that when he began his studies several years ago he paid 300 pounds ($90) for an arm and a skull, while a whole body now sells for 3000 pounds ($900). *(AFP)*

Delighted Mother Teresa Makes Way After 47 Years

CALCUTTA — A delighted Mother Teresa was replaced as head of the Missionaries of Charity here Thursday after almost half a century to allow an Indian nun to take charge, the order said.

The 86-year-old Nobel Peace laureate, suffering from life-threatening heart problems since August, stood down to make way for Sister Nirmala, a Hindu convert who was elected after almost two months of deliberations.

Mother Teresa, who has been suffering from health problems, and her successor held a spontaneous press conference at the Mother House headquarters here after the elections.

Mother Teresa, speaking in a soft voice, said: "You must pray for us that we may continue God's work with great love and God bless all of us."

Sister Nirmala added: "We thank God that we have mother by our side and we hope to continue the work of God as He wills."

A brief statement from the Missionaries of Charity, meanwhile, confirmed that Mother Teresa would continue to play a key role, adding: "Mother remains as mother and the foundress. Sister Nirmala is the new superior general."

Calcutta Archbishop Henry d'Souza responded: "It is a perfect choice considering it was almost unanimous. Mother Teresa rang me up and she sounded very happy at the outcome."

Mother Teresa set up the order in 1950 to help the poor and destitute in the slums of Calcutta before setting up homes worldwide.

Sister Nirmala, 63, was the only Indian on the shortlist of candidates to take over as superior general. She has been in charge of the order's contemplative wing since 1979.

Born in Ranchi in the State of Bihar of a military family with a Nepalese background, she is very close to Mother Teresa.

"Mother Teresa will be delighted, thrilled. She has been wanting to stand down since 1990," said Sunita Kumar, who has been a close associate of the Albanian-born nun for almost 30 years.

"I am not surprised over the result. It is what we all wanted. Sister Nirmala is very soft talking, a lovely person but also very tough. She has worked very closely with Mother Teresa.

"She is extremely sensitive and soft-spoken but she's very tough and very strong."

Four counsellor generals — Sisters Frederick, Priscilla, Lysa and Martin Deporres — were elected to help run the order.

Mother Teresa and Sister Nirmala were also due to appear at a press conference together Friday.

Kumar downplayed fears that the order, which accepts donations but is not allowed to fundraise, would lose its worldwide appeal after the departure of Mother Teresa.

She said the new head would prove her worth, saying: "She is very holy and has an aura. She's certainly got charisma and is a special personality. You would know what I mean if you met her."

More than 120 nuns making up the order's electoral college convened here on January 16 from all over the world for prayers and discussions before voting.

The result of the poll was due out on February 2, but was later put back since many of the nuns said they did not know the leading candidates well enough.

Mother Teresa won the Nobel prize in 1979 for her missionary work. She first asked to stand down in 1990 after being fitted with a heart pacemaker but was voted back in unanimously. Following heart surgery, she had to be persuaded by the pope to carry on in 1994. *(AFP)*

Paedophile Suspects Shunned by Fellow Inmates

BRUSSELS — Inmates of Belgium's Arlon Prison said they were refusing to share facilities with two of the country's most notorious paedophiles, Marc Dutroux and Patrick Derochette, who are awaiting trial.

"We are refusing to co-habit with this type of criminal," representatives of the inmates said in a statement to the Belga news agency.

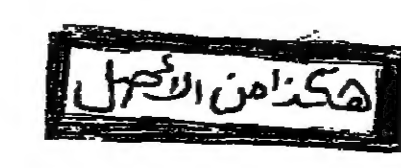
The prisoners expressed their "solidarity" with the families of Belgium's missing children, particularly that of Loubna Benaissa, the nine-year-old Moroccan girl whose body was discovered earlier this month in Derochette's Brussels service-station workplace, five years after her disappearance in 1992.

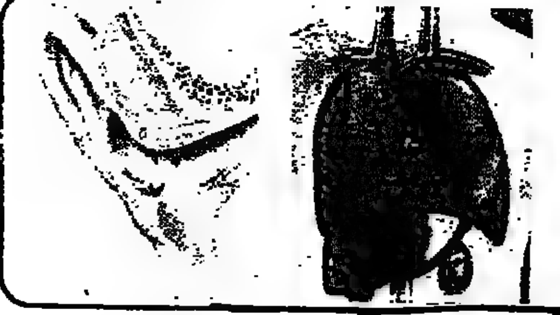
They also demanded that progress be made by a clean justice and untainted magistrate on the errors in the police inquiry following Loubna's disappearance.

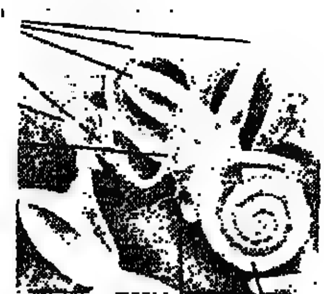
The inmates in the prison, near Neufchateau in southern Belgium, are said to be concerned about being confused in the public and judicial mind with child murderers and paedophiles, and called for dedicated prisons for such offenders.

Dutroux, held on charges of kidnapping and raping six children between June 1995 and August 1996 — four of whom were found dead — has been imprisoned in Arlon since August last year.

Derochette, who was arrested after the discovery of Loubna's body on March 5, is being held on similar charges. *(AFP)*





THOUGHT

What you see and hear depends a good deal on where you are standing, it also depends on what sort of person you are.

C. S Lewis

PRAYER

Noon	12:13
Evening	18:32
Dawn (tomorrow)	05:41
Sunrise (tomorrow)	06:13

TODAY IN HISTORY

1962 - U.S. military training personnel in South Vietnam exchange fire with communist guerilla forces.

1969 - Fighting breaks out between Soviet and Chinese forces along border of those two nations.

1973 - U.S. and Soviet envoys begin fourth round of SALT talks in Vienna, Austria, on limiting arms.

1989 - Soviet Union's President Mikhail S. Gorbachev calls for rapid measures to ease chronic Soviet food shortages.

1990 - Iraq executes London-based newspaper reporter after a closed-trial conviction for spying.

1991 - Serbigan President Borisav Jovic resigns after the collective presidency fails to declare a nationwide state of emergency.

1992 - A second earthquake strikes eastern Turkey-800 believed dead.

1993 - Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin offers after meeting with President Clinton to surrender part of the Golan Heights to Syria.

1994 - Inmates seized a Roman Catholic cardinal, two bishops and 15 other people in a prison uprising in northeastern Brazil.

THE GOOD NEWS

A hormone derived from the urine of pregnant women may lead to promising new treatment for Kaposi's Sarcoma, a type of skin cancer that often strikes people with AIDS. In a small clinical trial, injections with the compound completely cleared the lesions in 10 of 12 patients.

Study: Strokes Linked to Alzheimer's Disease

WASHINGTON — Moderate strokes can produce or heighten the symptoms of alzheimer's disease, a study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Society* says.

The study shows that after moderate strokes in certain areas of the brain, symptoms of alzheimer's begin to appear. Strokes are a common occurrence among older people which impedes their mental faculties.

The study at the University of Kentucky's center for gerontological studies raises the hope that treatments for strokes and other cerebrovascular disorders could help some people with alzheimer's.

The study led by Dr. David Snowdon was based on an evaluation of the cognitive abilities of 102 catholic nuns between 76 and 100 years old followed by post-mortem examinations to look for the protein plaques associated with alzheimer's.

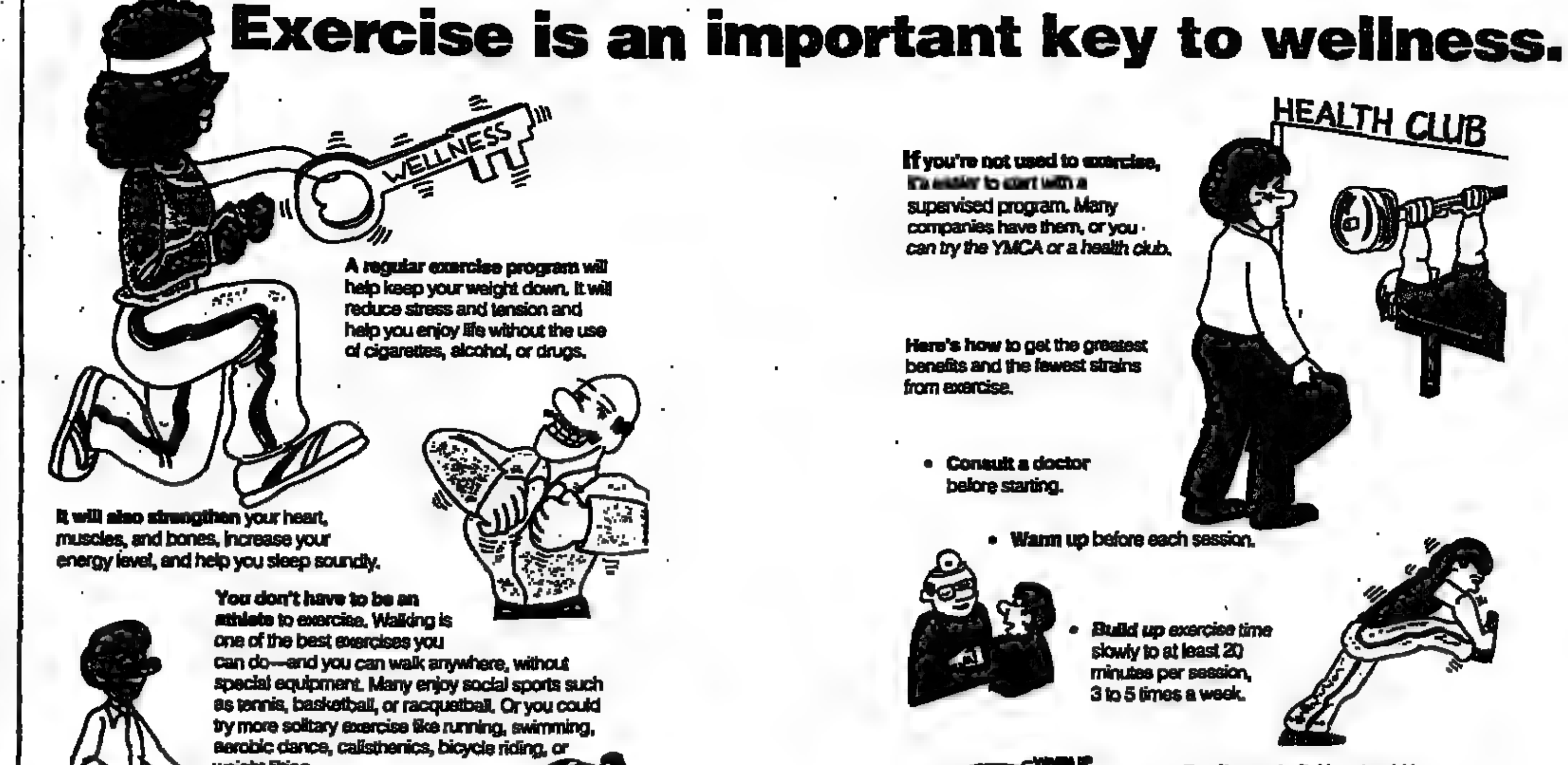
At autopsy, the brains of 61 women revealed these symptoms, and those who had the most advanced senile dementia when alive had also been stroke victims.

"This study provides some hope that treatments and prevention strategies currently used for stroke and other cerebrovascular disease, such as atherosclerosis, may prove helpful in treating some people with alzheimer's disease," said Dr. Zaven Khachaturian, director of the alzheimer's association's Ronald and Nancy Reagan Research Institute.

Alzheimer's, a disease that causes the brain cells to die and victims to lose their mental faculties, affects an estimated 10 per cent of people over 65 and almost half of those over 85 in the United States.

Four million Americans suffer from the disease and 100,000 die from it every year.

(AFP)



Study: Women Who Get Epidurals Subject Newborns to Tests

CHICAGO — Babies born to mothers who received an epidural to ease labor pains were three times as likely to be subjected to discomforting tests for infection after birth, researchers said recently.

Newborns of mothers who chose to receive the pain-killing shot were no more likely to actually have the infection than other babies, the study found. But epidurals have been linked to maternal fevers during labor, a possible sign of infection, and that led doctors to order tests on the babies anyway.

In the study of 1,657 births at Boston's Brigham and women's hospitals, 34 percent of babies born to mothers who got the epidural needed an evaluation for potentially dangerous sepsis, compared to 10 percent of the babies born to mothers who did not have the shot.

Actual infections were rare in both groups. But more than 14 percent of the women who received the pain-killing shot developed a temperature of more than 100. 4 degrees (38 celsius), against only 1 percent who developed fevers among those who did not get the shot.

Newborns whose mothers received epidurals also were 10 times more likely to be treated with antibiotics because doctors were concerned about infection.

No studies have been done to show the effect on the foetus of elevated maternal temperature, study coauthor Ellice Lieberman of Harvard Medical School wrote in the article that appeared in the *Journal Pediatrics*.

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V4 P3 E1 O1 E1 R1 R1		RACK 1
A1 H4 P3 S1 C3 M3 S1	2nd Letter Triple	RACK 2
A1 K5 A1 F4 C3 L1 L1	Double Word Score	RACK 3
B3 T1 T1 E1 I1 A1 L1		RACK 4

PAR SCORE 75-85

by JUDD

FOUR RACK TOTAL ____
TIME LIMIT: 20 MIN

DIRECTIONS: Make a 2- to 7- letter word from the letters in each row. To total points of your words, use scoring directions to right of each row. 7-letter words get 50-point bonus. "Blanks" used as any letter have no point value. All Judd's words can be found in OSW Official Scrabble Words (Chambers). JUDD'S SOLUTION TOMORROW

3-28-95

SCRABBLE® BRAND GRAMS SOLUTION BY JUDD

P3 O1 M3 P3 O1 M3	RACK 1 =	17
A1 T1 O1 N1 A1 L1	RACK 2 =	6
J8 A1 I1 L1 E1 D2	RACK 3 =	14
S1 C3 R1 U1 N1 C3 H4	RACK 4 =	92
PAR SCORE 80-90	JUDD'S TOTAL	129

3-27-95

FERD'NAND ® by Henrik Rehr



NANCY ® by Guy & Brad Gilchrist



TENDER NO: 75/33626

MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY INTENDS TO PURCHASE 1210 MT GRAPHITE ELECTRODES FOR LADLE FURNACE WITH THE FOLLOWING SPECIFICATIONS:

GRAPHITE ELECTRODES (LF)

TYPE:	U.H.P		CHEMICAL COMPONENT:	
LENGTH:	2075 - 2125	95%	C	96 - 98%
DIAMETER:	450 - 455	95%	P	0.1%
DENSITY:	1.66 - 1.73 T/M³		S	0.1%
			ASH	1.5 - 2%

NIPPLE

			CHEMICAL COMPONENT:	
DIAMETER:	241.3T:MM		C	96 - 98%
LENGTH:	355.6 MM		P	0.10%
DENSITY:	1.73 - 1.83	95%	S	0.10%
			ASH	1.5 - 2%

TRANSFORMER

PRIMARY		SECONDARY	
RATED POWER:	30 MVA	VOLTAGE:	200 - 400 VOLT
OPERATING VOLTAGE:	33 KV	CURRENT:	42.7 - 49.5 KA
RATED CURRENT:	578 A	MAX ELECTRODE CURRENT:	45 KA

INTERESTED BIDDERS MAY OBTAIN A SET OF BIDDING DOCUMENT BY THE SUBMISSION OF A WRITTEN APPLICATION TO THE FOLLOWING ADDRESS AND PAYMENT OF NONREFUNDABLE FEE OF U.S.$ 1,000 IN FAVOR OF MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY ACCOUNT NO. 138 BANK MARKAZI.

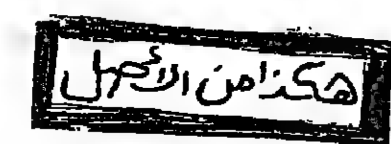
MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY: 75 KM SOUTHWEST OF ISFAHAN MOBARAKEH, ISFAHAN, IRAN.

RAW MATERIALS PURCHASING DEPARTMENT P.O.BOX: 167

FAX: (0098 31) 327512 & 324324 TLX: 312524 & 312264 MSCO IR

ALL BIDS MUST BE DELIVERED TO ABOVE OFFICE ON OR BEFORE 14/4/97

MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY



Products, Services and Plans of 80 Iranian Companies Displayed in Kuwait

A report on holding the 5th I.R. of Iran Solo Exhibition in Kuwait

Kuwait meets high percentage of its domestic needs through importing goods. Since the nearest ports to Kuwait are Khorramshahr, Abadan and Bandar Imam and on the other hand there are some factors such as the shipping line (passenger transportation) between Kuwait and Khorramshahr, *the existence of* Iranian in particular Khuzestani businessmen, cultural and ... joint grounds, and frequent trade ties between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Kuwait, the importance of exports of the I.R. of Iran's goods to Kuwait enjoying a special place becomes more clear so that according to studies and surveys, Iran with 52 percent exports in 1992 ranked 32 among the countries which exported goods to Kuwait while this figure reached 72 percent in 1993 and 131 percent in 1994 bringing about for Islamic Republic of Iran the 31st and 18th ranks respectively. it is expected that Iran due to the development of trade ties between the two countries to be among the major exporters.

One of the important and effective measures implemented by Khuzestan Commerce General Office in 1996 to promote the non-oil exports was to hold the 5th Islamic Republic of Iran Solo Exhibition in Kuwait.

The exhibition licensed by Export Promotion Center of Iran (EPCI) was held exclusively in Kuwait. Since holding international fairs and expositions and active participation in such exhibitions play an essential role in attracting tourists, marketing and introducing the export facilities including goods and services and on the other hand the suppliers and producers have direct contacts with the applicants and customers and this activity brings about a type of competition concerning the quality of exporting items, the issue was discussed in sessions of provincial Committee for Non-Oil Exports Promotion and then placed in the agenda of negotiation between the officials of Khuzestan and Kuwaiti committees for development of economic and commercial ties which held in early 1375 in Kuwait and the Kuwaiti authorities welcomed the plan of Khuzestan Province on holding the exhibition and in this regard a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed.

> ***The 5th I.R. of Iran Solo Exhibition in Kuwait was held by Khuzestan Commerce General Office and brought about positive results.***

When the above-mentioned memorandum of understanding was signed, Khuzestan Commerce General Office expressed its readiness for holding the aforesaid exhibition to Export Promotion Center of Iran and after constant pursuits, the center agreed. Then immediately the exact date of holding the exhibition, i.e. from December 25, 1996 to January 1, 1997 (from Day 5, 1375 to Day 12, 1375) — on the verge of holy month of Ramazan and beginning of Christian year — after consulting with officials of Iranian Embassy in Kuwait was announced.

Then the date and objectives of this exhibition were announced to all producers, offices organizations of the country through different dailies, periodicals and frequent correspondences and in this way the registration of the applicants willing to participate in the exhibition started.

> ***Some 80 manufacturing and industrial units displayed their products which were extremely welcomed by the Kuwaitis.***

According to the announced conditions, over 320 units voiced their readiness to the Exhibition Secretariat out of which 80 units — 50 percent from Khuzestan Province and 50 percent from other provinces — were finally accepted.

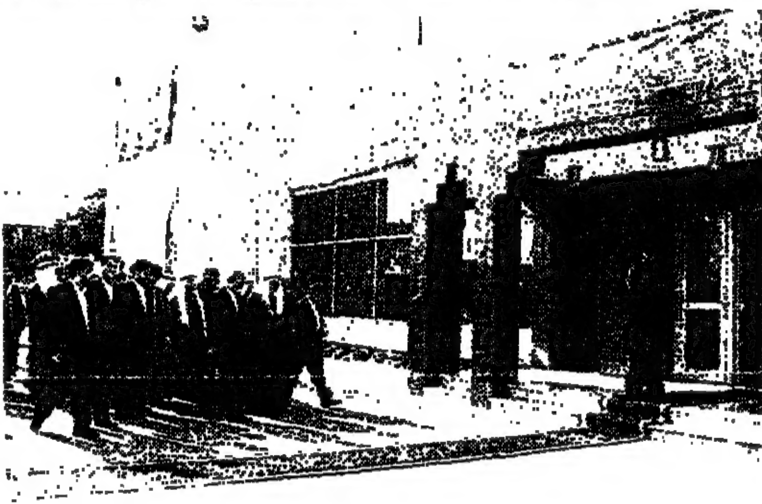
Some 50 percent of the selected units offered the products such as different kinds of foodstuffs, machine-made and hand-woven carpets, handicrafts, wood industries and furniture, clothing, dishes, kitchenware and home appliances and imitations, and the rest including Iran Carbon Co., Behbahan Cement Co., Farsit Co. and a group of the country's industrial factories have participated in the exhibition for marketing and business purposes.



Al-Jarn, Kuwait deputy minister of commerce, and Engineer Moghimi, Khuzestan governor general, are cutting the ribbon to inaugurate the Iranian solo exhibition in Kuwait.



Deputy minister of commerce of Kuwait visiting the Iranian producers' goods.



Kuwaiti deputy minister of commerce accompanied by Khuzestan governor general and other officials are about to enter the hall of Iran's solo exhibition.

One of the characteristics of the exhibition was the effective participation of engineering and technical services units as well as Iran-touring units which took part in this exhibition for the first time to make it more fruitful and prepare the ground for exporting technical and engineering services and also attracting tourists. Over 25 stands were allotted to these two which were extremely welcomed by the visitors. The products and activities of the participants in the touring sector had created a spiritual and cultural atmosphere in the exhibition.

The other characteristic of holding the exhibition was the exportation of the goods from Bandar Khorramshahr and transportation of the products by Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL) from Bandar Khorramshahr to Kuwait. All customs formalities were done by Khorramshahr Customs General Office and due to cooperation of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company Valfajr 8 Shipping, the first cargo after the imposed war were loaded in 29 containers and shipped by 'Iran Ghadr' ship from Bandar Khorramshahr to Kuwait on December 17, 1996.

The stands of Iranian producers were welcomed by the visitors during the exhibition.



Iranian ambassador to Kuwait also visited the I.R. of Iran solo exhibition.

Due to the prearranged programmings on getting the visas and providing tickets, all the participants entered Kuwait in the appointed time and when the carrying the exhibition's cargo arrived, the formalities of customs clearance were done and the goods were carried to the exhibition's venue. In this way, the 5th Islamic Republic of Iran Solo Exhibition in a 3,500-square-meter area in Hall No. 6 of Kuwait International Fairs Center was inaugurated and paid a visit by Al-Jarn, Kuwaiti deputy minister of commerce, Engineer Moghimi, Khuzestan governor general, Hawalli and Al-Ahmadi governors general, the officials of Islamic Republic of Iran embassy, and a number of Iranian and foreign guests.



The facade of Iranian exhibition in Kuwait on inauguration day

Since the Kuwaiti mass media had highly issued the news of holding the exhibition and on the other hand, some other exhibitions from Turkey, Saudi Arabia as well as Kuwait were to be hold simultaneously, the 5th exhibition was extremely welcome so that the hall was full of visitors during the exhibition's working hours — from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 p.m. to 21 p.m. and even in some days the exhibition due to the large crowds of people was closed with delay. According to those who were in charge of the stands, over 90 percent of the participants called their presence in the exhibition as successful and in addition to sale of goods they have succeeded to make a contract in the field of reexporting the goods.

It is worth mentioning that no important pro' lem thanks to God willing and anticipated programs appeared during the exhibition and the 5th Islamic Republic of Iran Solo Exhibition in Kuwait wound up its activity on January 1, 1997.

An official of the Exhibition Secretariat expressed his appreciation and gratitude to the authorities of Export Promotion Center of Iran in particular Engineer Saeedlou, the deputy minister and head of EPCI and his assistants, Dr. Noghrehkar Shirazi, deputy minister of commerce, Ministry of Commerce's deputies for commercial, financial and administrative services, officials of Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Company, Engineer Moghimi, Khuzestan governor general, deputies of Governor General's Office, provincial managers particularly the management of provincial Industries General Office and Khuzestan Islamic Culture and Guidance General Office, the management of customs and Bandar Khorramshahr, the management of Valfajr 8 Shipping, Khorramshahr Branch, and all the personnel of Khuzestan Commerce General Office for their incessant cooperation in holding the exhibition as well as possible. Then, he added, "We express our readiness to hold the future exhibitions in Kuwait as well as other neighboring countries in hope of materializing the objectives of the holy system of Islamic Republic of Iran, developing the non-oil exports, showing the country's capabilities and potentialities, and also obtaining the optimum use of the existing facilities in order to bring about all-out development for Khuzestan Province.

> ***The 5th I.R. of Iran Solo Exhibition in Kuwait was held through efforts of Khuzestan Commerce General Office and successfully wound up its work.***

Russian Authorities Struggle to Stem Flood of Drugs

MOSCOW – From foreign couriers smuggling hard drugs through airports to image-conscious Nouveaux riches sharing cocaine, sophisticated narcotics dealers profiting from the post-Soviet chaos are pushing the Russian police to the limits.

Drugs unknown in Soviet times are flooding into Russia, many destined for the lucrative markets in Western Europe and North America, but an increasing number also reaching local consumers with money to spend.

Police officials here say drugs unknown in Soviet times are flooding into Russia, many destined for the lucrative markets in Western Europe and North America, but an increasing number also reaching local consumers with money to spend.

Last month the U.S. State Department said urgent official intervention was needed to combat drug trafficking in Russia, where dealers were taking advantage of "inefficient tax and government enforcement mechanisms and the prevalence of capital flight."

Nikolai Nikolayev, head of the Russian customs service's anti-drugs unit, told AFP that each year since the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991 drug-trafficking had increased by 75 to 100 percent, with dealers using all means of transport.

"They are coming in from India, Afghanistan, Germany, the Baltic states, Latin America – it's a flood," said a Moscow policeman.

"We cannot contain it at last year's level," said a member of the Moscow police drug squad. "The number of crimes uncovered by our unit is rising like yeast."

In 1995 there were nearly 3,000 drug-related crimes in Moscow, according to official figures, but nearly 5,000 were registered in 1996.

In January of this year alone, 672 drug-related crimes were recorded, the drug squad spokesman said.

According to Nikolayev, the customs service has 500 personnel dedicated to combating drug-trafficking.

Since the Russian authorities seized two tons of Colombian cocaine hidden on a boat in 1993 they have kept ports under a close watch.

But the Caucasus and Tajikistan – mountainous and difficult to patrol – are key entry points for Asian heroin and opium.

"We check on all the flights from Central Asia, whether in Moscow or Saratov (in central Russia)," Nikolayev said.

After July 1995 the police anti-drugs personnel were reorganized into independent regional and municipal units. In Moscow, the drug squad was expanded from 40 to more than 400.

However, their headquarters in a dilapidated building on Prospekt Mira is a far cry from the high-tech facilities used by their Western counterparts.

One policeman acknowledged that the drug squad was still far from homing in on the suppliers in the bid to track down "dirty" money.

Another admitted that the new unit was still relatively inexperienced.

But Western-style undercover operations have brought an increase in drug seizures, and police and customs officials agree that international law enforcement cooperation is working well.

But the wheeling and dealing accompanying Russia's transition to a free market has brought with it a boom in cocaine consumption by Nouveaux riches.

"We know where drugs are coming from, and by what route," said the drug squad spokesman. Russian Mafia groups are kept under surveillance, and "if the Colombians want to smuggle drugs here they have to strike a deal with a local gang," he said.

But the wheeling and dealing accompanying Russia's transition to a free market has brought with it a boom in cocaine consumption by Nouveaux riches.

Cocaine parties are organized at elite private clubs, some of them frequented by celebrities, one policeman said.

"It's considered cool in certain circles, good for one's image. It goes with having money to spend, splashing out left, right and center, showing off one's pretty wife and Mercedes 600," he said.

Last month two Russian Federal Security Service officers were arrested in Moscow on charges of major cocaine dealing.

According to Russian officials, the use of drugs among young Russians has increased by 500 percent in the last three years. *(AFP)*

India to Host Interpol Conference

NEW DELHI – India signed an pact with the Interpol secretariat Thursday to host the world police body's annual General Assembly here in October, officials said.

"This is the first time that India will play host to the annual General Assembly in which top police and intelligence chiefs belonging to 177 nations will participate," an official of the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) said.

The host country agreement for the week-long conference, which starts on October 15, was signed between the Interpol administrative division chief, Claude Trassard and the CBI chief Joginder Singh, the official said.

"India was selected as the venue of the conference at last year's annual assembly in Turkey," he said.

The official said money laundering, international cooperation on deportation and extradition, and the fight against drug- related crime would be discussed at the conference.

Interpol, which comprises 178 countries, facilitates co-operation between national police forces.

(AFP)

Intel Chips Away at Veil Hiding Pentium II

HANNOVER – The world's electronic components leader, Intel, shed a bit more light at the Cebit Show in Hannover on its next mircoprocessor for microcomputers, the Pentium II.

The Pentium II will be much more powerful than the present Pentium Pro and will be endowed with MMX technology, but users will have to change the motherboard in their computers.

In displaying, along with Microsoft, the NetPC, which the two companies call a "flexible" computer, Intel showed a NetPC equipped with the Pentium II to demonstrate that such future economic computers can be very powerful.

The Pentium II, corresponding to the microprocessor known to date as Klamath, the name it received from the engineers in the development phase, is to be marketed by Intel starting next June.

Intel executives in Hannover stressed that the Pentium II would not be officially introduced until June, and they refused to indicate its price. But they told AFP that the price of the new processor would be set in such a way that computers to be equipped with it can cost less than $2,500.

The new produce will have twice as many transistors as the 4.5 million in the Pentium MMX.

(AFP)

Jakarta to Open Web Site

JAKARTA – The Indonesian government is planning to open a Web site to foster the state ideology, a report said Frdiay.

Chairman of the state ideology agency BP-7, Alwi Dahlan, said that his office was preparing to open a Web site to provide correct and timely information on the Indonesian ideology, the Indonesian *Observer* daily said.

Pancasila, meaning five principles, is Indonesia's state ideology and was enunciated by the nation's first President Sukarno in June 1945.

The principles are: belief in one God, humanitarianism, nationalism, democracy through consensus and social justice for all. *(AFP)*

Beepers Restricted in House of Commons

LONDON – The rules in the House of Commons, "mother of parliaments," lurched towards the 21st century this week when Speaker Betty Boothroyd informed "honorable members" that electronic pagers would henceforth be allowed in the chamber in vibration mode only, thank you.

"Noisy gadgets," she said in her characteristically strident tones, would be frowned upon.

The order followed an incident Tuesday in which Tory MP John Greenway rose during prime minister's questions to ask, "Will the prime minister join me in congratulating Chartered Insurance Institute on the occasion of its one hundredth anniversary?"

The seemingly vacuous query touched buttons at Labour's campaign command center, where, after a quick computer check, a "beep" was fired off to Labour MP Brian Wilson on the Commons floor, who leaped to his feet.

"A point of order, madam speaker. The honorable member (Greenway) is, in fact, a paid consultant of the insurance industry."

Conservative MPs swore they heard Wilson's beeper go off just before he jumped up.

Reacting to the incident, Boothroyd said Wednesday, "I strongly deprecate such practice. For any member to be prompted in this way by an outside group is totally unacceptable."

Acknowledging she did not have the authority to ban such devices from the chamber, Boothroyd added, "I can have no objection to instruments which merely vibrate to attract the attention of the bearer.

"I am not, however, prepared to accept the use of such instruments as an aide-memoire by a member who is addressing this House."

Quipped Wilson, "As I understand it, it will be alright in the future to receive information, but not to use it."

Beeper messages are nothing but the modern-day equivalent of the scribbled promptings that legislative aides used to flash from the shadowy recesses of the public Commons galleries to help speaking MPs along.

Rules of the House categorically forbid members from expressing themselves by reading from notes, by applauding, or by shouting.

Another reason for Boothroyd's order may have been a story that graced the front page of Thursday's *Daily Telegraph*.

According to the account, Gordon Brown, the opposition Labour shadow chancellor, had just delivered a lackluster speech in the Commons in response to the government's budget with a lukewarm promise that "we will bring down vat on fuel."

Watching the speech, a political editor at ITN television told Brown's press secretary, Charlie Whelan, that the comment would probably not make the evening news because, as a sound-bite, it was flat.

Whelan immediately beeped Alistair Darling, Brown's chief shadow deputy, urging him to tell Brown to repeat the promise more forcefully.

The message was passed, Brown Rose, intervened in a speech by Chief Treasury Secretary William Waldegrave, and said in clarion tones: "Let me make that clear. We will pledge in our manifesto to cut vat on fuel." *(AFP)*

Australia Welcomes Cloned Cattle Advance

SYDNEY – Australian scientists on Thursday welcomed the reported production of more than 400 clones from a single cattle embryo by Melbourne researchers, saying the breakthrough brought the cloning process to the verge of commercial production.

"But it produced multiple identical animals at the top of the breeding pyramid, which would inevitably lead to in- breeding. If they're all identical you've got to be very careful who you mate them with and who you mate their daughters with."

Australia's move into the cloning industry closely follows the cloning of an adult sheep by Scottish scientist Ian Wilmut, amid a major ethics debate in Europe on whether armies of human clones might be about to be introduced to the world.

Australia's interest is in the commercial production of cattle – although even a welcoming local scientific community includes critics of cattle cloning.

A team including Professor Alan Trounson of Monash University, Melbourne, and Bernie Harford of Genetics Australia were said by Britain's *New Scientist* magazine on Thursday to have made 470 cattle clones from a single embryo. Their aim was to create a reliable herd of prize cattle.

Neither was available for comment.

"This is a terrific technical achievement, an order of magnitude (achieved) more than anybody else. (But) it's a production process not a research process," said Oliver Mayo of the Australian government's Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organization (CSIRO).

Scientists such as Mayo see the Trounson-Harford achievement more in the quantity of the clones produced than in the quality of the clones they have made.

But Mayo and other Australian scientists, most from the Transgenics School which seeks to genetically engineer super-products rather than make clone copies of existing animals, described the Trounson-Harford breakthrough as limited.

"This is what looks like a production tool rather than a research tool," Mayo said.

Professor Laurie Piper of the Cooperative Research Center for premium quality wool, who is working to prodnce a Australian transgenic wool, said cloning was limited by a need to copy an existing animal.

"Embryonic cloning is widespread around the world. I don't think there's anything much new in that at all," Piper said.

While debate rages in Europe about Wilmut's cloned sheep Dolly, introduced to the world last month, concern in Australia is more about how much Trounson and his team are achieving at the high-quality end of animal-engineering and whether end-product meat will find consumer acceptance at dinner tables in Asia and the rest of the world.

Mayo believes that Trounson's real breakthrough will be to make possible the mass production of hundreds of Dolly-type clones at a time and possibly allow clone-production of hundreds of transgenically-produced animals.

"It is of commercial significance today," Mayo said.

"But it produced multiple identical animals at the top of the breeding pyramid, which would inevitably lead to in- breeding," he said. "If they're all identical you've got to be very careful who you mate them with and who you mate their daughters with. *(Reuter)*

From Words to Action: Rio Earth Summit, Five Years On

RIO DE JANEIRO – Some 500 delegates from multinational institutions and non-governmental organizations gathered here Thursday to discuss implementing the 1992 Rio Earth Summit's recommendations.

The representatives will discuss proposals for sustainable development during a week-long summit – dubbed Rio-Plus-Five – which will last until March 18.

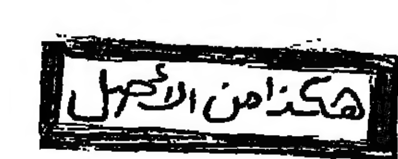
"What unites us is a determination to build a satisfactory future together. We cannot see into the future, but we can create it," said Katia Maria, of the Brazilian Forum for Non- Governmental Organizations (NGOs).

World Bank president James Wolfensohn, World Economic Forum president Klaus Schwab and Brazilian President Fernando Enrique Cardoso will participate in discussions on the issues raised by the 1992 summit.

The Earth Council, which organized the meeting, said participants would seek to draft recommendations on ways to implement sustainable development, including the function of institutional, regional and world-wide agreements.

And organizers also hope to develop a draft agreement on environmental protection and sustainable development, to be ratified by the United Nations in 2000.

(AFP)



Unlawful Killings During Operation "Grapes of Wrath"

Part 4

Prohibitions on using the civilian population as a shield

Throughout the conflict in Lebanon, Israel has repeatedly argued that the armed groups it has been fighting, including Hizbullah, use the civilian population as a shield from behind which they launch their attacks. The Israeli authorities argue that *Hizbullah* combatants take up firing positions in the close proximity of civilians and civilian objects, use civilian objects (such as houses) to store weaponry or munitions or to launch attacks, and use civilian vehicles as means of trasporation. *Hizbullah* denies these allegations. Protocol 1 prohibits the use of such tactics; Article 51(7) provides:

"The presence or movements of the civilian population or individual civilians shall not be used to render certain points or areas immune from military operations, in particular in attempts to shield military objectives from attacks or to shield, favor or impede military operations."

Further, Article 58(b) obliges parties to a conflict to avoid "to the maximum extent feasible ... locating military objectives within or near densely populated areas."



As will be discussed below, this was the main explanation advanced for the deaths of over 100 civilians at the UN compound in Qana. However, when Protocol 1 was drafted, those involved, including military experts from many countries, were fully aware of the need to balance the protection of civilians against the demands of military necessity. To allow an armed force carete blanche to attack without regard for civilian lives simply on the basis that the civilians in question are being "used as shield," would undermine efforts to protect them. For this reason, while prohibiting shielding tactics, international law also makes clear that use of such tactics does not provide the other side with a licence to kill civilians. Article 50(3) of Protocol 1 provides:

"The presence within the civilian population of individuals who do not come within the definition of civilians does not deprive the population of its civilian character."

Furthermore, Article 51(8) makes clear that even if one side is shielding itself behind civilians, such a violation of international law does not "release the parties to the conflict from their legal obligations with respect to the civilian population and civilians, including the obligation to take precautionary measures provided for in Article 57." Such measures include refraining from launching an attack, and even cancelling an attack in progress, if such an attack may be expected to cause disproportionate loss of civilian life.

(Courtesy Amnesty International)

(To be contd)

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Monthly Statistics of Afghan Repatriation Since January 1,1996

Month	Dogharoun	Yazdan	Mirjaveh	Milak	Total
Jan. 1996	408	0	0	180	588
Feb. 1996	202	0	0	14	216
Mar. 1996	163	0	0	9	172
Apr. 1996	399	0	0	41	440
May 1996	1,101	0	0	36	1,137
June 1996	1,036	0	0	54	1,090
July 1996	1,085	0	0	75	1,160
Aug. 1996	2,016	0	0	161	2,177
Sep. 1996	607	0	0	39	646
Oct. 1996	420	0	0	8	428
Nov. 1996	173	0	0	7	180
Dec. 1996	133	0	0	0	133
Jan. 1997	97	0	0	16	113
Total	7,840	0	0	640	8,480

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees From the Islamic Republic of Iran

A. Repatriation Movements

During the reporting period, a total of 113 Afghan refugees, receiving UNHCR assistance package, crossed the border into Afghanistan through Dogharoun and Milak border exit stations (BES) in Khorasan and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces respectively, bringing the cumulative total since December 1, 1992 to 565,959 individuals.

B. IOM organized 1 convoy from Mashad carrying 10 individuals. 36 returnees were also assisted by IOM to cross Helmand River at Milak BES into Afghanistan by ferries. Out of whom 16 returnees were assisted by UNHCR. *(Unhcr Update)*

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees Monthly Summary Statistics January 1997

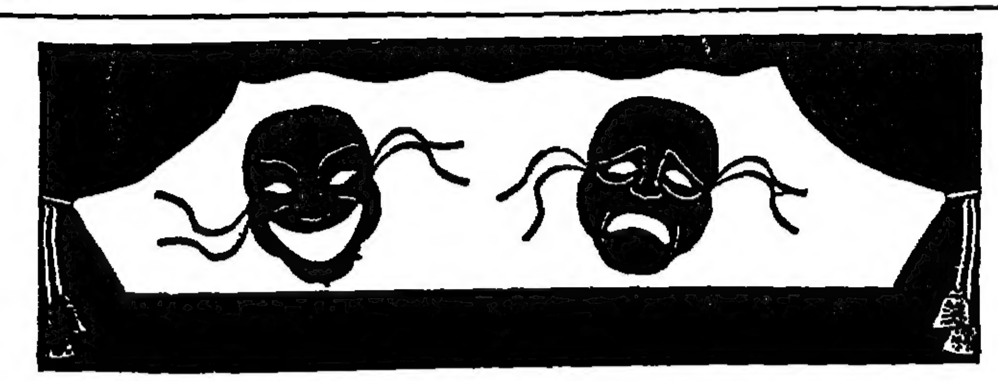
	No. of Returnees	Wheat (KG) Distributed	Wheat (KG) Balance	Total Cash in Rials Distributed	No. of Plastic Sheets Distributed	No. of Plastic Sheets Balance
A. Khorasan	97	4,850	1,024,750	7,275,000	18	19,628
Sub-Total	97	4,850	1,024,750	7,275,000	18	19,628
B. Sistan-Baluchestan	16	800	229,800	1,200,000	3	13,449
	16	800	229,800	1,200,000	3	13,449
C. Grand Total	113	5,650	1,254,550	8,475,000	21	33,078

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees From Milak Border January 1997

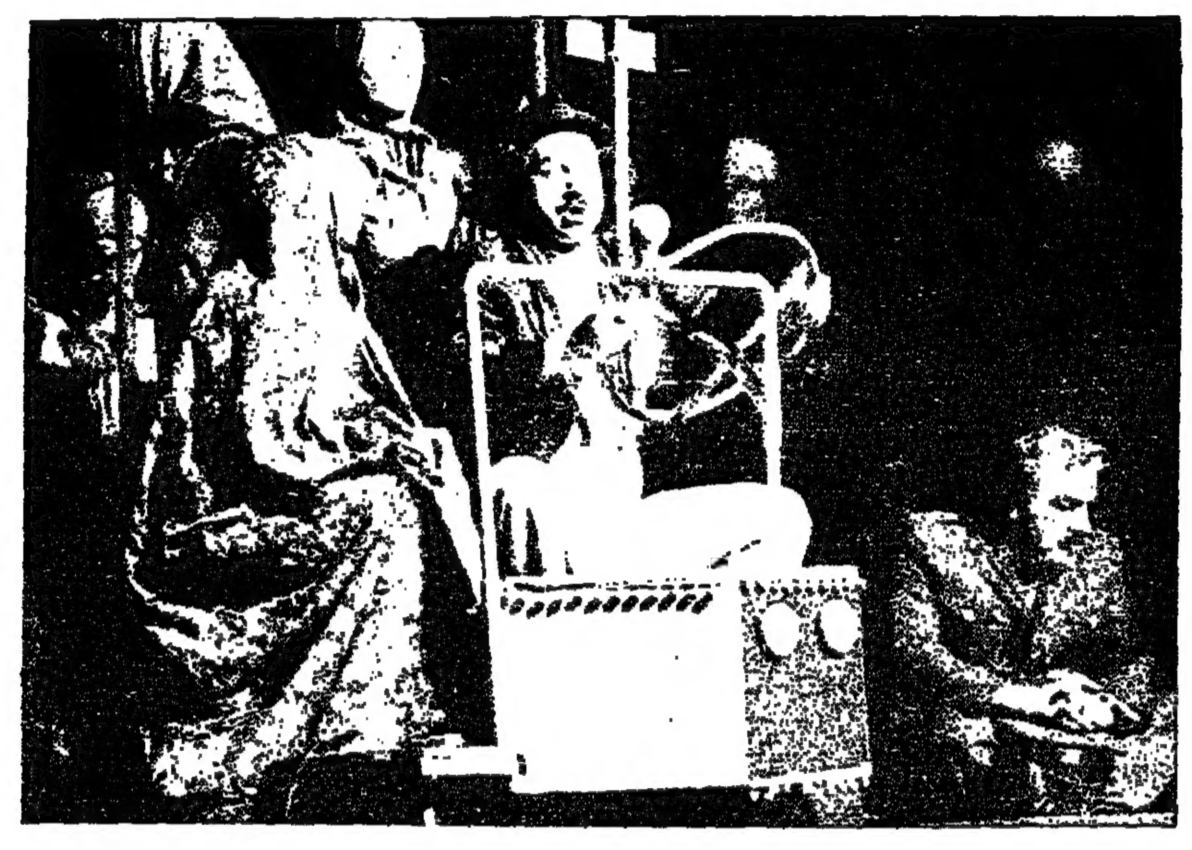
Date	No. of Families	Adults: Male Single	Adults: Male Family	Adults: Female Single	Adults: Female Family	Children under 15	Total Adults & Children
1st Jan. 96 to 31 December 96	90	137	112	0	100	275	624
01-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
02-Jan-97	1	0	1	0	1	4	6
03-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
04-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
05-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
06-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
08-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
09-Jan-97	2	0	3	0	4	2	9
10-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
11-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
12-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
16-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
17-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
18-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
21-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
22-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
23-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
25-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
26-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28-Jan-97	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
29-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
31-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
Total January	3	1	4	0	5	6	16
Total since 1st Jan. 96	93	138	116	0	105	281	640

Repatriation of Afghan Refugees From Dogharoun Border January 1997

Date	No. of Families	Adults: Male Single	Adults: Male Family	Adults: Female Single	Adults: Female Family	Children under 15	Total Adults & Children
1st Jan. 96 to 31 December 96	1,223	2,366	1,364	47	1,158	2,808	7,743
01-Jan-97	1	1	1	0	1	1	4
02-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
03-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
04-Jan-97	1	12	1	0	1	0	14
05-Jan-97	1	1	1	0	1	0	3
06-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
07-Jan-97	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
08-Jan-97	5	3	5	0	4	4	16
09-Jan-97	1	1	0	0	1	1	3
10-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
11-Jan-97	1	5	1	0	1	2	9
12-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
13-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
14-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
15-Jan-97	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
16-Jan-97	0	2	0	0	0	0	2
17-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
18-Jan-97	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
19-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
20-Jan-97	1	0	1	0	1	4	6
21-Jan-97	0	3	0	0	0	0	3
22-Jan-97	1	0	1	0	1	4	6
23-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
24-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
25-Jan-97	3	0	2	0	2	6	10
26-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
27-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
28-Jan-97	1	2	1	1	1	3	8
29-Jan-97	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
30-Jan-97	2	0	2	0	2	6	10
31-Jan-97			(WEEKEND HOLIDAY)				
Total January	18	33	16	1	16	31	97
Total since 1st Jan. 96	1,241	2,399	1,380	48	1,174	2,839	7,840



Eshq-Abad Creates Hot Winter for Theater



Tehran Times Service

Written and Directed by Davood Mir Baqeri

Cast: Parviz Parastooie, Mahaya Petrossian, Rassoul Najafian, Sirous Gorjestani

Synopsis

Dr. Ashkevari is introduced to a lunatic asylum. He believes the lovelorn could be treated by plays, laughter, recalling memories. He practises his own methods of treatment, though Dr. Ghana'at, the head of lunatic asylum who's known as the Death Angel, clearly opposes the new doctor's methods. Finally, surprising to know, Dr. Ghana'at pirates the new doctor's methods for himself and gets rid of him.

Critique

With his previous play, *Ma'rekeh dar Ma'rekeh* (Juggler's Juggle), performed for several months in Tehran and some states of the U.S., Davood Mir Baqeri gained worldly fame in theater. His latest play *Eshq-Abad* (The Lovelorn) follows the same style.

The play, relying on Iranian traditional plays like traditional storytelling, popular Iranian folk and comic plays, enjoyed exemplary success in the drama sector.

The simple but effective directing of this play, concerning its simple and palpable theme, proves to be very acceptable for the theatergoers.

The casts are energetic and full of attractions. Parviz Parastooie is very successful in role playing quite different casts, so are the others.

The theatrical stage setting may be cited as the other positive point in The Lovelorn.

Also live music performance makes the play more effective.

But The Lovelorn does not pay much attention to psychology of characters which is considered to be a focal point in the play; rather nostalgia of the viewers has been taken care of. It helps the theatergoers remind — not deeply of course — the humanistic relations among people in the past regime.

It seems that applying the archetypes of an ever-drunk and rogue bus driver, a shrew housewife, a shallow man and a traditional housewife do not penetrate into the minds and cast just a cliche glance at the interactions among the people of the play.

The long queue, however, of eager theatergoers, in the coldest days of winter is a solid evidence for the success of the play. Eshq-Abad creates a hot winter for the theater of the capital.

We hope to see our theater halls ever-crowded with plays on stage like The Lovelorn.

China Warns Rural Governments on Education Fees

BEIJING — China's central government has issued a harsh warning to rural governments to stop collecting illegal levies for education, Xinhua reported Wednesday.

"In some areas, education fees are excessive and some are diverted for other purposes. These practices must be halted and banned," said a circular distributed by the State Education Commission, the State Planning Commission and the ministries of agriculture and finance.

"No education fees should be collected from farmers in poor or disaster-stricken areas," it warned.

In addition, rural residents can only be taxed for renovation of school buildings and not be "redirected as bonuses or welfare benefits to teachers or as a substitute for state education funds." China's central government is fighting what appears to be a losing battle with local authorities to keep down the size of taxes levied on farmers and other rural residents.

Last year, the State Council ordered that the rural tax limit could be only five percent of a farmer's net annual income, but the ministry of agriculture later conceded that rates in many areas were still running as high as 15 percent.

(AFP)

BERLIN, Germany: Taiwanese director Tsai Ming-Liang proudly presents his "Silver Bear" special jury prize, which he received for his movie "The River" during a ceremony at the Zoo Palast Movie Theatre in Berlin, marking the end of the "Berlinale" International Film Festival.

(AFP PHOTO)

Nazi Mega-SPA to Become Tourist Resort

RUEGEN — A gigantic health SPA built on a Baltic sea island to provide rest and exercise for the soldiers of the Third Reich will be turned into a tourist resort, the government announced Tuesday.

Designed in 1935, the 20,000-bed complex was one of the most grandiose projects of the Nazi era. It consists of eight six-story buildings, each 500 meters (1,600 feet) long, lined up along the beach on Ruegen Island.

By 1939, the framework was finished, but more pressing priorities led to its abandonment before it could be used. After the war, Ruegen became part of East Germany and the army took over the island, barring visitors.

The monumental architecture, designed by the architect clemens klotz (which means chunk), was so sturdy that the russians were forced to abandon attempts to dynamite it.

Since reunification in 1990, the German government has pondered what to do with the massive structure.

Finally, the federal and state governments agreed Tuesday to jointly finance a 500-million-mark (300-million-dollars) project to turn it into a 3,000-bed tourist resort that will include several hotels and youth hostels.

(AFP)

Creator of Dr Who and The Daleks Dies

LONDON — Scriptwriter Terry Nation, creator of *The Daleks* in the *Dr Who* television series, has died at the age of 67, the BBC reported Tuesday.

Nation, who had been suffering from emphysema for a number of years, died at his home in Los Angeles on Sunday, according to a spokesman for BBC television, which produced the *Dr Who* series.

His monsters scared and enthralled millions of youngsters after he devised them as adversaries for the *Dr Who*.

(AFP)

Japan Tops Index at Paris Book Fair

PARIS — Japan is to take centerstage in Paris this week as the star of this year's Paris Book Fair, the biggest annual publishing event in the French-speaking world.

The Salon du Livre will be officially inaugurated Tuesday evening by French Culture Minister Philippe Douste-Blazy, before throwing open its doors to the public from Wednesday. It will remain open until next Monday evening.

More than 300,000 visitors are expected at the fair, being held on the outskirts of Paris and covering everything from electronic media to art and language books.

Stars expected to attend the annual publishing bash include former French film star Brigitte Bardot to sign copies of her controversial memoirs as well as fashion designers Paco Rabanne and Sonia Rakiel.

The Paris Salon du Livre is generally rated among the top international book fairs, after the Frankfurt Buchmesse, the world's biggest publishing binge.

Pride of place, however, is going to a Japanese pavilion housing 8,000 books in Japanese. President Jacques Chirac, a known enthusiast for all things Japanese, has named 1997 France's Year of Japan.

Some twenty top Japanese author are attending, including Yoshimoto Banana, Tomomi Fujiwara and Okira Ooka — all known for their futuristic and fantasy writing. Illustrator and author Anno Mitsumasa will also be present.

As well as books, visitors will be able to learn the Japanese arts of paper theater, paper folding and Japanese calligraphy.

Debates will be held on Japanese culture, society and history.

And alongside the exhibition, a series of Franco-Japanese events are being organized, with classes on Japanese culture at the Sorbonne University this week and meetings of French and Japanese publishers.

The fair, with 561 stands, is due to play host to 1,514 publishers, coming from France and around the world, and is expected.

Of the 347 foreign publishers, Japan will host a healthy 43 stands at the fair compared for example to 48 for neighboring and partially Francophone Belgium.

In addition to debates on Japanese culture, talking sessions are scheduled on subjects as diverse as the battle against extremism — an important issue in France where intellectuals are opposing France's far-right national front — and eroticism in literature.

Around 900 authors are expected to perform book signings at the fair including Rising Stars of French literary scene and others known more as celebrities outside the literary world — such as Bardot.

(AFP)

What's on TV During New Year Holidays?

Tehran Times Service

TEHRAN — According to the latest reports, some 47 feature films will be broadcast during the New Year holidays: 17 of which from the first channel, channels two and three each 15.

So far, we have not received the time table for the said feature films.

For children, however, we have a complete list of the special programs to be on air by channel two.

— *Children of Hammel School* (series), at 9:00 a.m. Thursdays starting from Mar. 13, 1997.

— *Happy New Year, Children of Iran*, produced and directed by Amir Samavati, in 15 forty-minute episodes.

— Foreign series *Treasure Island* in 26 twenty-minute episodes.

— The animation *The White Teeth* based on Jack London's *The Son of the Wolf* in 15 twenty-minute episodes.

— Foreign animation *Wind in the Willow* in 25 twenty-minute episodes.

— *Talent* (series) in six 25-minute episodes.

— *Treasure Hunters* (foreign series) in six 25-minute episodes.

— Animation *Takuri* in 51 five-minute episodes.

— *A City in the Forest* (foreign series) 26 twenty-minute episodes.

— *The Mouse Detector* (series) in 52 twenty-minute episodes.

— The single-episode 15-minute animation *Panda Store*

According to the latest reports, in addition to the programs above, a very interesting documentary series, *The Wild Wild World of Animals*, filmed by England, has been dubbed and prepared in thirteen 25-minute episodes. The documentary in its different episodes studies and introduces the lives and habits of wild animals as lion, tiger, leopard, vulture, ... Don't miss this terrific documentary every day at 8:30-9:00.

Daily Food for Thought

On Ambition

Oh, sons of earth! Attempt ye still to rise
By mountains pil'd on mountains to the skies?
Heaven still with laughter the vain toil surveys,
And buries madmen in the heaps they raise.

ALEXANDER POPE
Essay on Man



